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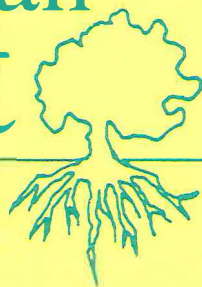
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Swedish American Genealogist



*A journal devoted to Swedish American
biography, genealogy and personal history*

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America in My Childhood

Ulf Beijbom*

“Moshult was a little part of the world where thoughts of distant places usually did not stretch any farther than to Skruv and Emmaboda,” tells the old cantor Ivar Svensson in the Algutsboda book. The exception, of course, was America, which was always in the thoughts of the people of Algutsboda during the time when Vilhelm grew up. America had become a household word, comparable to heaven. The blissful lived there, but could not be seen. Here, as in most other parishes in Småland, America was considered a western offshoot to the home area. This was especially true about Minnesota and Chisago County, “America’s Småland,” which became the most common destination for the emigrants from Algutsboda and Ljuder parishes. Most people in the area had only a vague idea about the Promised Land or the U.S.A. It was commonly known in which direction it was located and that it was bigger than Sweden, therefore inconceivably big.

As in most other areas in Sweden in the 1800s, the population grew considerably in Algutsboda. The population growth was most prominent among the lower class, which was reflected in the construction of more than two hundred side-cottages (*backstugor*) during the first half of the century. These were the people in the forest around grandmother’s Trångadal. In the 1850s, 4,500 people lived in the parish, but the population kept growing and reached 5,391 in 1880. Algutsboda was then not only one of Kronoberg’s biggest parishes, but also one of the most densely populated. The growing population contributed to the increasing emigration, which began with the not too destitute, and eventually spread to society’s lower classes, the farm workers and small-industry workers. Those living in side-cottages and crofters without contacts in America were usually too poor to emigrate and therefore remained in the area.

The emigration from Algutsboda began early, or about the same time as in neighboring parishes. The first lone emigrant left around 1850 and the earliest group of emigrants, 33 people, left in 1853. After a fairly slow start, emigration took off as the years of famine continued. Axel Henriksson, the area’s foremost researcher of folklore, describes the year 1869 as the absolute biggest year in regards to emigration with 93 America certificates. The year 1880 was especially intensive, like everywhere else in Sweden, with about 400 emigrants. The large emigration continued until the First World War, when it was spurred on by, among other things, the closing-down of Modala glass factory. The 1920s was the last of the eight emigration decades. According to the church records, 1,617

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people from Algutsboda left for North America during the entire American emigration epoch (period) ending in 1930. Even if the number of emigrants from Algutsboda was high, it was still lower than the number from the average province in relation to population and considerably lower than the number from the neighboring parishes of Ljuder, Långasjö, and Älmeboda.

Fifty-nine people from about one dozen homes which comprised Molshultamåla village, emigrated during the 80 years of emigration. Almost all of them, or 52 people, went to USA. Moberg's parents also harbored thoughts of America when newly married. In a letter to his mother Johanna, dated in Norway, Michigan, 5 December 1892, Ida's brother Axel Julius Aronsson is neither encouraging nor discouraging leaving Sweden: "but it is difficult to say if they will fare any better here than at home." At the same time, Axel wants to guarantee that Mother Johanna will have a good life if she comes. We don't know if it was this letter or something else that dampened the thoughts of emigrating for the soldier and his wife. It is clear that their intentions were sincere for some time. Vilhelm used to say that he could very well have been born in America. "I understood that my parents had regrets. But it was too late now: they could not emigrate with seven children." Vilhelm Moberg's childhood and adolescent years were consequently woven into the enormous emigration tapestry of Småland. One can easily understand why he felt the emigration subject came to him, choosing its own author.

Vilhelm Moberg has written about the background to the emigrant novels in several places. In the document *The Unknown Swedes (Den okända släkten)* he discussed the first results of his research into the building of the novels. The "novel about the emigration novels," which is included in *Berättelser ur min levnad*, is the most personal account. The introduction tells about how the "homebody" was driven to another part of the world by numerous American relatives. "Today, my kinfolk over there number about one hundred. USA is the Kinfolk Land, to me."

We read that America was one of the first words Vilhelm recognized and that photographs of the relatives who had emigrated were always on display in the cottage. The framed picture "Memory from America" occupied the place of honor and showed photographs of his mother's "American siblings." "I saw them on photos—the photos from America were displayed in pretty shell frames on the dresser which was the most prominent place in the cottage. The portraits framed by the colorful shells were father's and mother's pride; they were holy things not to be touched by children's dirty hands." Vilhelm was especially fascinated by the photographs of his cousins. All of them lived in the USA and the photos gave witness of their fashionable clothing. "For a long time I thought that cousins were a kind of high-class, distinguished children, only found in America."

The boy's growing desire to decide his own fate and join the emigrants came from the early impressions of America as Småland's foster parent: "You were born and grew up in Sweden. As an adult, you went to America." In 1916, the dream of America seemed closer to becoming a reality. Uncle Peter Jacob of San Leandro, who had come home for a visit three years earlier, sent a ticket for

America and a letter promising to take care of the eighteen-year-old. The nephew was to attend the same school as his cousins in California. Vilhelm made arrangements to travel with some friends. His father seemed prepared to agree to his son's wish to emigrate, but his mother was implacable: "She would not let me go. America had taken all her siblings from her...Was she also going to lose her only living son to the country from which nobody returned?" Vilhelm was also reminded of his grandmother's words of warning: "Don't go to America, because if you do, your mother will never see you again."



Fig. 1. Memory from America, a photographic collage of Vilhelm's American relatives on his mother Ida's side of the family. Sune Ekstrand photograph.

This resulted in the annoying fact that his friends left while Vilhelm stayed behind, forced to do so by his mother. In return, his father promised him a course at Grimslov's Folk Academy. Board and room at Grimslov amounted to

500 crowns, which Kalle Moberg produced by selling a litter of piglets, thereby saving his son for Sweden. He could now embark upon the tricky road through life's own university in earnest. What would have become of Vilhelm if his mother Ida had given in? His impressive physique and his spirit would no doubt have been valued in the U.S. But life as an immigrant would most likely have been too busy for Vilhelm to produce other writings than letters home.



Fig. 2. Vilhelm (on left) and his friends in Algutsboda in 1916, when he was seriously considering America. Two of the boys in the photograph pursued their plans to emigrate. In this case, Vilhelm was not the bravest of the boys.

The America letters were familiar to those who stayed home. They were often read aloud in the home during quiet time in the evening set aside for rest. The rectangular envelopes with the blue stamps showing the president were usually addressed to the mother in the family, who put forth great efforts to reply. Occasionally, the father answered a letter. Vilhelm has told us that all siblings on both his father's and his mother's side emigrated. Like most people, his father and mother also considered America in their youth. A letter from Uncle Axel in Michigan, dated 5 December 1892, discusses the possibilities for mother Johanna, Ida, and her husband "Moberg" to emigrate, but this letter, found in

Vilhelm's possession, did not result in their emigrating. "I could just as well have been born in America."

He writes that his father had three siblings who emigrated, but the church books only tell about his sister, Anna Charlotta, born 1869, who emigrated in 1893. An illegitimate daughter left after her, in 1904. Aunt Lotten's married name was Holtzman and several letters from her are included in Vilhelm's America letters from his relatives. All six of his mother's siblings who emigrated are represented in the large collection of letters, which became the author's first source material for the emigrant novels. In the clerical survey records, they are all listed under the patronymic Aronsson: Aldo Gottfrid, born 1857 and "in America since 1881;" Axel Julius, born 1859, emigrated 1882 with his brother Peter Jacob, born 1861; Anna Carolina, born 1866, emigrated 1885; Vilhelm's namesake Carl Vilhelm, born 1869, emigrated 1887; and finally Frans Ernst, born 1872, emigrated 1890. Last on the page with the heading "125 Moshultamåla" is the only Aronsson sibling who remained in the area, Vilhelm's mother Ida Charlotta, born 1864, noted three times for safety's sake.

The first sibling to emigrate, Aldo Gottfrid, who died at a young age, left for Wisconsin after working for some time on the railroad in Jämtland, where also Axel and Peter Jacob prepared for their emigration. From Wisconsin he crossed into Iron River in the forest and mining area of northern Michigan. Iron River later became the desired destination also for Axel, Peter Jacob, Carl Vilhelm, and Frans. Vilhelm arrived there in 1948 to see his cousins and their children. Uncle Frans, who Americanized his name to Frank Lindqvist, visited his mother together with his son Earl in 1906, while Peter Jacob made a trip to Sweden in 1913. As an old man, Peter J. Aronson began writing down his memories, but they were still incomplete when he died in 1945 at the age of eighty-five. In Vilhelm's America collection is a copy marked "My uncle Peter Jacob Aronsson's memoirs." After varying lengths of time in the Midwest, several of the Aronsson siblings continued as far west as they could, to Seattle and different places in California. Peter Jacob settled in San Leandro and Anna Carolina in San Diego. Axel and Frank in Seattle wrote frequent letters home and their efforts became very useful for their nephew. Like many emigrants, Axel wondered if anything had changed at home. This is evidenced in a letter dated March 17, 1930, "So they drive automobiles in Moshultamåla now. I wonder if they are flying in the countryside, too. Do you have electric lights at home?"

Vilhelm's sister Signe emigrated to Michigan, the family's most common destination in America, in 1926, and Axel confirms in one of his letters to Moshultamåla that she has settled in Escanaba. He adds, "I can't remember your children's names. I have become so (forgetful)... but I do remember your son's name because I see his name in the paper *Svenska Amerikanaren*, William Moberg, I believe that is him." The letter from his uncle in Seattle was an early indication of Vilhelm's fame on the other side of the Atlantic.

Vilhelm had left home long before his thirty-two-year-old sister emigrated in 1926. Her stories would have an impact on the emigrant novels. In *When I Was a Child (Soldat med brutet gevär)* his sister is transformed into seventeen-year-old

Dagmar who defies her parents and the system of masters and servants by breaking away from her life as a maid and following her calling to the West. During her three years as a maid, Dagmar had saved up for an outfit for the trip. "She bought a hat, a shining oilcloth purse, a muff to keep her hands in, and a brooch to fasten by her neck, just like Aunt Anna in the photograph. And she bought hair in big bunches and tucked it under her own hair, which stood on end, all in order to appear genteel." And the day came when Dagmar herself lifted her America trunk onto the spring wagon while Aldo Samuel's red mare nervously shook the wagon back and forth.

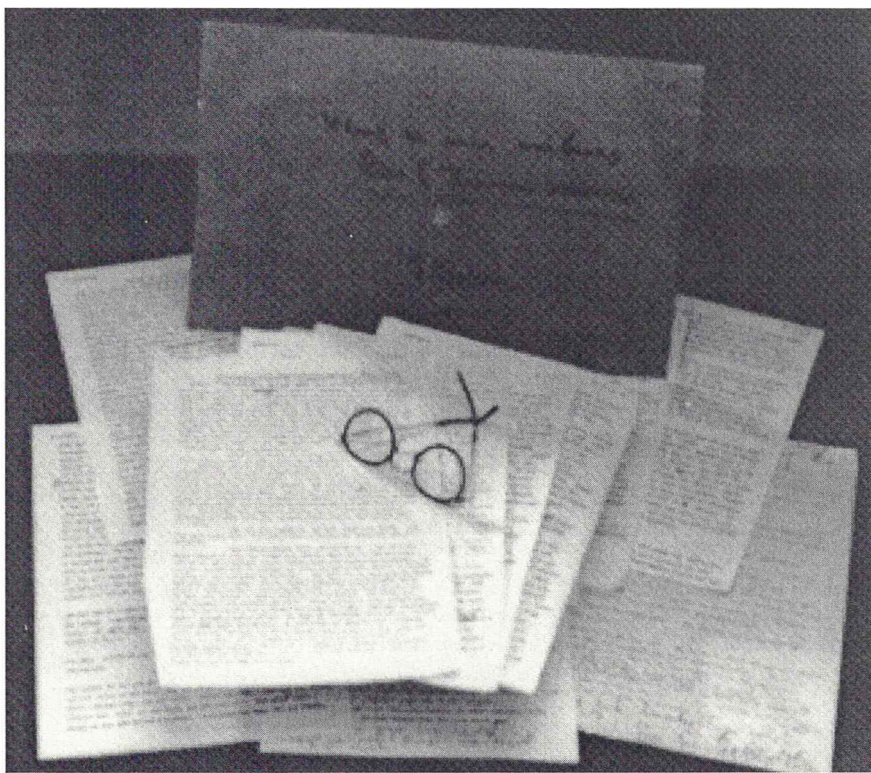


Fig. 3. After carefully studying his uncle Peter J. Aronson's memoirs, Vilhelm placed the manuscript in the big brown envelope now included in the Moberg collection at The House of Emigrants. Sune Ekstrand photograph.

This and several other brilliant descriptions made Moberg's autobiographical novel one of the strongest literary testimonies to the emigration fever in Småland. When the poor mother, the soldier's Hulda, says farewell to her son

Gunnar a few years later, and watches the same red mare pulling the wagon, she thinks back to all the times this mare has taken her lost children to the railroad station.

“As the soldier’s Hulda stood there, she remembered the other times. When the mare left with Albin, she was still a young mare. She stomped impatiently between the shafts, chewed the bit, and rocked the wagon back and forth so the farmhand had all he could do to hold her. That was Albin, and it was many years ago. When she took Ivar and Dagmar she was fully tamed and stood with feet planted on the ground; she had reached a horse’s best years. But there was a spark in her eyes, attention in the way her ears reached forward, and pride in the way she held her head high. When Fredrik left, she had a colt running at her side. But when she was harnessed up to the wagon, it was obvious that she had aged; her speed was slower and she sometimes had to be urged on. A few more years had passed since then.

And now Gunnar was leaving in the wagon behind the red mare, and she was old and tired, didn’t chew on the bit, didn’t stomp back and forth, didn’t move her feet at all; she just stood there.”

Vilhelm Moberg's Relatives— *Morbröder, Moster, and Syster—* in the United States

James E. Erickson

Aron Petersson: b. Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 4 Feb. 1829, son of *Brukaren* Petter Jacobsson and Stina Olofsdotter;¹ d. Moshultamåla, 1 May 1875;² m. Algutsboda, 5 April 1857.³

Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter: b. Duvemåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 2 Nov. 1833, daughter of Johannes Svensson and Ingrid Håkansdotter;⁴ d. Moshultamåla, 13 Dec. 1912.

Aron and Johanna lived at No. 47 Duvemåla after their marriage on 5 April 1857. Their first two children, Aldo Gottfrid and Axel Julius, were born here.⁵ In 1861 the family moved to Moshultamåla, the village (*by*) where the remaining five children were born and from which all the children but Ida Charlotta emigrated.⁶

Children:

1. **Aldo Gottfrid Aronsson Lindquist** (1857-1922), see Table 1.
2. **Axel Julius Aron(s)son** (1859-1940), see Table 2.
3. **Peter Jacob Aron(s)son** (1861-1947), see Table 3.
4. **Ida Charlotta Aronsdotter:** b. Moshultamåla, 7 Sept. 1864;⁷ d. Sweden, 23 July 1960. At Algutsboda on 28 Feb. 1890,⁸ she m. **Karl Gottfrid Moberg** (b. Rörshult, Algutsboda, 24 Aug. 1865; d. Moshultamåla, 22 July 1950). Their daughter, **Signe Johanna Mathilda Moberg**, immigrated to Escanaba, Michigan. See Table 4.
5. **Anna Carolina Aronsdotter** (1866->1940), see Table 5.
6. **Carl Vilhelm Aron(s)son** (1869-19??), see Table 6.
7. **Frans (Frank) Ernst Aron(s)son Lindquist** (1872-1948), see Table 7.

Husförhållanden		Födelse			Flyttningar			
Ordförande	Ordförande	År	År	Ort	År	Från	År	Till
C 1247 Dufvemåla								
1/4	Unit.	17	28	11	60	22/10	Bo.	
✓	1/4	17	07					
	1/4	17	33					
✓	1/4	17	36					
✓	1/4	17	37					
✓	1/4	17	50					
	1/4	17	26					
	1/4	17	26		62	22/10	Bo.	
✓	1/4	17	27	a.	57	22/10	Bo.	
✓	1/4	17	33	a.	57	supra.		
✓	1/4	17	57					
✓	1/4	17	37					

Fig. 1. Husförhörlängd (AI:17, p. 269) from Algutsboda Parish covering the period 1855-62. Here we find Eg. (ägare = owner) Aron Petersson living at No. 47 Dufvemåla with his wife and two sons.

Personernas namn, stånd, ålder, yrke och ämbetsföreläggning (bäckstugor, läkare, och fattighjälpen), nationalitet (om främmande), lyten, (evangeliska, blinda, dödsutömla)		Födelse			Ålder		Flyttad		Döda	
År	År	År	År	År	År	År	År	År	År	År
Moshultamåla										
1	1/4	27	4	18	57	5				1876
2	1/4	33	2		57	5				
	1/4	57	1/2							
3	1/4	57	1/2							
	1/4	61	1/2							
4	1/4	64	27							
5	1/4	66	1/2							
6	1/4	67	5							
	1/4	72	1/2							

Fig. 2. Husförhörlängd (AI:21, p. 313) from Algutsboda Parish covering the period 1870-75. Here we find Eg. Aron Petersson living at Moshultamåla with his wife and seven children. In the last column on the right is the notation that Aron died on 1 May 1875, which explains why his name is crossed out.

Table 1

Aldo Gottfrid Aronsson Lindquist, son of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912), was b. at Duvemåla, Algutsboda (Små.), 15 Aug. 1857;⁹ d. in Bates Township, Iron Co., Michigan, 16 April 1922;¹⁰ and was bur. in Bates Township Cemetery, Iron Co., Michigan.¹¹ As a twenty-four-year-old, unmarried, tenant (*inhyses*), he left Moshultamåla in Algutsboda Parish¹² and emigrated from Göteborg on 17 June 1881, listing Chicago as his destination.¹³ He joined the First Lutheran Church of Iron River on 24 March 1890.¹⁴

Aldo married **Wilhelmina Nilsdotter** on 26 Aug. 1883 in Florence, Wisconsin. Wilhelmina was the dau. of Nils Halvordsson (b. Bäcke Parish, Älvs., 1814; d. Eds Prästgård, Dals-Ed, 19 Oct. 1877¹⁵) and Brita Cajsa Svensdotter (b. Dalskog, 10 Jan. 1821; d. Årbol, Dalskog, 1 April 1869¹⁶). She was b. at Hjulserud, Bäcke, on 4 May 1861; d. in Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 28 April 1893; and was bur. in Quinnesec-Kingsford Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.¹⁷

Nils Halvordsson, Brita Cajsa Svensdotter, and their six children moved from Hjulserud, Bäcke Parish, to Årbol, Dalskog Parish, on 13 Nov. 1863.¹⁸ The widow, Nils Halvordsson, and his six children moved from Årbol to Eds Prästgård, Dals-Ed Parish, on 30 Sept. 1870.¹⁹ Wilhelmina and her older sister, Maja Kajsa Nilsdotter, are listed as leaving Eds Prästgård "till Amerika" on 28 April 1881.²⁰ She joined the First Lutheran Church of Iron River on 24 March 1890.²¹

Children from 1st marriage:

1. **Anna Charlotta Lindquist**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 5 June 1884;²² d. 6 Nov. 1963; bur. Resthaven Cemetery, Iron River Township, Iron Co., Michigan;²³ m. 14 Dec. 1905 to **Archie E. McCornock** (1881-1952).²⁴
2. **Esther Sofia Lindquist**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 27 Dec. 1885;²⁵ d. Crystal Falls, Iron Co., Michigan, 6 Feb. 1989; bur. Resthaven Cemetery, Iron River Township, Iron Co., Michigan.²⁶
3. **Axel Hjalmer Lindquist**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 22 March 1889;²⁷ d. Crystal Falls, Iron Co., Michigan, 12 March 1981; bur. Resthaven Cemetery, Iron River Township, Iron Co., Michigan;²⁸ m. Gladstone, Delta Co., Michigan, 1912 to **Maria Fredrika Mattson** (1888-1965).²⁹

Aldo married **Johanna Elisabeth Bäckman** in Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, on 12 May 1894.³⁰ She was b. at Wexala, Domarbacka, Munsala (Vaasa), Finland, on 11 Aug. 1869, the daughter of *torpare* Erik Eriksson and Maja Lisa Israelsdotter.³¹ She arrived in Norway, Michigan, from Finland in 1893 and joined the First Lutheran Church in Iron River, Michigan, on 2 Sept. 1899.³² Johanna Elisabeth d. on 7 Aug. 1952 and was bur. in Bates Township Cemetery, Iron Co., Michigan.³³

Children from 2nd marriage:

1. **Carl Gottfrid Lindquist**, b. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 9 Dec. 1896;³⁴ d. Crystal Falls, Iron Co., Michigan, 9 March 1993; bur. Bates Township Cemetery, Iron Co., Michigan;³⁵ m. Crystal Falls, Michigan, 21 Aug. 1929 to **Sylvia Alberta Peterson**.³⁶
2. **Elsa Maria Lindquist**, b. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 9 March 1898;³⁷ d. 16 Aug. 1989; bur. Resthaven Cem., Iron River Township, Iron Co., Michigan;³⁸ m. **Ernest A Benette** (1895-1984).³⁹
3. **Conrad Benjamin Lindquist**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 13 March 1900; d. Iron River, Michigan, 1901.⁴⁰
4. **Mildred Elisabeth Lindquist**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 8 Sept. 1903;⁴¹ lived in Lansing, Michigan, as of 1993; m. **Albert C. Boyd**.
5. **Curtis Walter Lindquist**, b. Bates Township, Iron Co., Michigan, 26 Aug. 1906.⁴²
6. **Ruth Alice Lindquist**, b. Bates Township, Iron Co., Michigan, 13 March 1909;⁴³ lived in Lake Forest, Illinois, as of 1993; m. 17 June 1939 to **William R. Collier**.

According to family history, Aldo first worked as a laborer on the crew building the railroad extension into the Iron River area. After he married Wilhelmina, they built a home on Nelson (now Boyington) Street in the newly platted village of Iron River. Here the first three children—Anna, Esther, and Hjalmer—were born. The family moved to Norway, Michigan, in 1890. Wilhelmina died here in 1893, after which Aldo took a second wife, Johanna Bäckman. The first two children of the second marriage—Carl and Elsa—were born in Norway. The family moved back to their home on Nelson Street in Iron River in 1899, where a son, Conrad, and a daughter, Mildred, were born. In 1904, the Lindquist family moved to a farm on Sunset Lake, where two more children—Walter and Ruth—were born.⁴⁴

Table 2

Axel Julius Aron(s)son, the son of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912) (see Table 1), was b. at Duvemåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 9 June 1859;⁴⁵ d. in Seattle, King Co., Washington, 10 Jan. 1940; and was bur. in Pacific Lutheran Cemetery, Seattle.⁴⁶ As a twenty-three-year-old, unmarried, *inhyses*, he left Moshultamåla in Algutsboda Parish with his younger brother, Peter Jacob.⁴⁷ They emigrated from Göteborg on 24 March 1882, listing Chicago as their destination.⁴⁸ He joined the First Lutheran Church in Iron River on 24 March 1890.⁴⁹

He married **Bengta (Betty) Persdotter** in Iron River, Michigan, on 23 Sept. 1893.⁵⁰ She was born in Ingelstorp (Krist.) on 22 Dec. 1863, the daughter of Åbo Pehr Pehrsson (b. Ingelstorp, 30 March 1822; d. Ingelstorp, 17 Jan.

1874) and Kerstina Andersdotter (b. Färlöv, 15 Aug. 1827).⁵¹ As a twenty-six-year-old, unmarried, seamstress (*sömmerska*), traveling alone, she left Ingelstorp on 24 Oct. 1890⁵² and emigrated from Malmö on 6 Nov. 1890. Iron River, Michigan, was listed as her destination.⁵³ She arrived in Iron River on 29 Nov. 1890 and joined the First Lutheran Church of Iron River on 12 July 1891.⁵⁴ She died in Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan on 14 Nov. 1898 and was bur. in Quinnesec-Kingsford Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.⁵⁵

Children of 1st marriage:

1. **Eddie Gilbert Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 30 June 1894;⁵⁶ d. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 18 Jan. 1895; bur. in Quinnesec-Kingsford Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.⁵⁷
2. **Erving Aronson**, b. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 28 June 1896; d. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 30 June 1896; bur. in Quinnesec-Kingsford Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.⁵⁸
3. **Carl Alvin Bernhard Aronson**, b. Norway, Dickinson Co., Michigan, 12 Oct. 1898.

He married **Anna Sofia Samuelsson**, b. Österback, Petolahti, Vaasa, Finland, 5 Aug. 1864, the daughter of Johan Eric Karlsson and Anna Lisa Jacobsdotter.⁵⁹

Anna was previously married to Carl E. Samuelsson. The family—Carl E., Anna, and Signe—emigrated from Göteborg to Marinette, Wisconsin, on 19 July 1899.⁶⁰

Axel lived at 4239 Palatine Avenue, Seattle, Washington, between 1921 and 1931. His obituary provides a brief summary of his life:

He entered the Iron River district in 1882 to find employment at the Isabella Mine. Later he conducted a grocery and meat business at Norway. He was a charter member of the First Lutheran Church of Iron River.

Mr. Aronson is survived by his wife; a son, Carl, of Spokane, Wash.; a daughter, Signe, of Seattle; two sisters, Mrs. Anna Johnson [see Table 5], of Pasadena, Calif., and Mrs. Ida Moberg of Sweden; and two brothers, Frank Lindquist [see Table 7] of Seattle and Peter J. Aronson [see Table 3] of Oakland, California, and Iron River.⁶¹

Table 3

Peter Jacob Aron(s)son, the son of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912) (see Table 1), was b. at Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 24 Dec. 1861;⁶² d. in Oakland, Alameda Co., California, 9 June 1947; and was bur. in Rose Hill Cemetery, San Leandro, Alameda Co., California.⁶³ As a twenty-year-old, unmarried, *inhyses*, he left Moshultamåla in Algutsboda Parish with his older brother, Axel Julius.⁶⁴ They emigrated from Göteborg on 24 March 1882, listing Chicago as their destination.⁶⁵ They arrived

in Iron River on 3 May 1882.⁶⁶ He joined the First Lutheran Church in Iron River on 24 March 1890.⁶⁷

He married **Mathilda Carolina Eklund** in Florence, Florence Co., Wisconsin, on 22 Aug. 1891. Mathilda, the daughter of Carl August Eklund and Anna Carolina Persdotter, was b. at Meling, Västansfors (Väsm.), 25 May 1874;⁶⁸ d. in San Leandro, Alameda Co., California, 2 Sept. 1966; and was bur. in Rose Hill Cemetery, Alameda Co., California.⁶⁹ She left Meling on 9 April 1880 with her father and mother⁷⁰ and emigrated from Göteborg on 16 April 1880.⁷¹ Although Chicago was listed as their destination,⁷² the family first went to Vulcan, Michigan, and then came to Iron River in 1882.⁷³ She joined the First Lutheran Church of Iron River, Michigan, on 24 March 1890.⁷⁴

Peter was one of the charter members of the Swedish Lutheran congregation and served as deacon, trustee, and treasurer for many years. Mathilda was active in women's groups of the church.⁷⁵ The family is listed in the 1900 Federal Census

Children:

1. **Earl Herbert Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 19 Feb. 1892;⁷⁶ d. Campbell, California, 19 Nov. 1996; m. **Mildred Christofferson**, b. Republic, Michigan, 12 Nov. 1907.⁷⁷
2. **Esther Lillian Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 7 Feb. 1894;⁷⁸ m. **Godfrey Jacobson**.
3. **Aldo Ernest Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 16 Dec. 1896;⁷⁹ m. **Ethel Bohannon**.
4. **Oscar Harold Aronson**,⁸⁰ b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 24 Oct. 1898; d. Oakland, Alameda Co., California, 1972; m. **Naomi Ward**.
5. **Chester Reuben Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 10 July 1901;⁸¹ d. Oakland, Alameda Co., California, Nov. 1972; m. **Mae Elliott**.⁸²
6. **Pearl Jeanette Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 27 Sept. 1903.⁸³
7. **Margaret Dorothy Aronson**, b. Iron River, Iron Co., Michigan, 30 Nov. 1905;⁸⁴ m. **Herbert Abbott**.

The family lived at 320 62nd Street, Oakland, California, on 22 Jan. 1940 and at 929 Lee Avenue, San Leandro, California, in 1947.

Table 4

Signe Johanna Mathilda Moberg, daughter of Karl Gottfrid Moberg and Ida Charlotta Aronsdotter, was b. at Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 16 Sept. 1893; d. at Soo Hill, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 30 Dec. 1961; and was bur. at Gardens of Rest, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan.⁸⁵

Signe married **Karl Alfred Hjalmar Fredrickson (Charles Fredrickson)** in 1914. He was b. in Algutsboda (Smål.) 6 May 1877; d. at Powers, Menominee Co., Michigan, 23 Dec. 1972; and was bur. at Gardens of Rest, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan.⁸⁶

Charles made three trips to the U.S. The first time, prior to 1900, he was in Canada and Minnesota and, eventually, homesteaded near Devils Lake, North Dakota. He worked for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad and also as a logger and farmer. He came to the U.S. a second time (after 1914 and before World War I) to escape military service in Sweden. The third time he emigrated on 10 March 1926 with his wife and daughter to Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan.⁸⁷

Charles had an aunt—*Faster* Carlson—who lived in Powers, Michigan; three siblings (Signe Fredrickson Swanson, Nennie Fredrickson Stainstrom, and Erick Fredrickson) who lived in Escanaba; and two brothers (Fred and Ernest) who lived in Washington.

Signe really didn't like living in the U.S.; she would have preferred to return to Sweden. Her brother, Vilhelm, gave Signe money to take a trip to Sweden in 1949. Signe was a very religious person; Vilhelm, just the opposite. She did not read her brother's books. Vilhelm lived with his sister in Escanaba for one month ca. Aug/Sept. in 1948, to do research on immigrants.

Children:

1. **Margaret "Margit" Elsa Linnea Fredrickson**, b. Algutsboda (Smål.), 3 Dec. 1914; d. Bloomington, McLean Co., Illinois, 1994; bur. Gardens of Rest, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan; m. **Ralph Anders Timan** (1910-d. Duluth, MN, 1980).
2. **Ida Christina Johanna Fredrickson**, b. Soo Hill, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 24 Nov. 1926; d. Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 1975; bur. Gardens of Rest, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan; m. **Charles G. Fletcher** (1918-1979).
3. **Carl Alvin Fredrickson**, b. Soo Hill, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 16 May 1930; m. Chetek, Barron Co., Wisconsin, 27 Aug. 1960 to **Clara H. Skoug** (b. Chetek, Wisconsin, 23 Dec. 1937).
4. **Karen Evelyn Fredrickson**, b. Soo Hill, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 1931; d. Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan, 1994; bur. Gardens of Rest, Escanaba, Delta Co., Michigan; m. **Hugo L. Mattonen** (1928-1991).

Table 5

Anna Carolina Aronsdotter, the daughter of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912) (see Table 1), was b. at Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 15 Sept. 1866.⁸⁸

I have only begun the research on Anna Carolina and what little information I have has been compiled from her brothers' obituaries. Her married name was

Johnson when she lived in Pasadena, California, in 1940⁸⁹ and at 1245 13th Street in San Diego, California, in 1947.⁹⁰

Table 6

Carl Vilhelm Aron(s)son, the son of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912) (see Table 1), was b. at Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 6 Jan. 1869.⁹¹ His place of death in the United States is not known. As an eighteen-year-old, unmarried, *dräng* traveling alone, he left Moshultamåla in Algutsboda Parish on 6 April 1887⁹² and emigrated from Malmö on 28 April 1887, listing New York as his destination.⁹³ He has not been located in either the Iron River area church records or in the 1900 or 1910 federal censuses for the Iron River area. There is no mention of him in Axel's 1940 obituary.

In a recent interview, Walter Lindquist,⁹⁴ son of Aldo Gottfrid Aronsson Lindquist (see Table 1), revealed that his uncle, Carl Vilhelm, was presumed to have drowned. Although his jacket was found by the edge of a lake or stream in Iron County (Walter could not remember the exact site), Carl Vilhelm's body was never found.

Table 7

Frans (Frank) Ernst Aronsson Lindquist, the son of Aron Petersson (1829-1857) and Johanna Johan(ne)sdotter (1833-1912) (see Table 1), was b. at Moshultamåla, Algutsboda (Smål.), 24 July 1872; d. Seattle, Washington? As a seventeen-year-old, unmarried, *dräbng* traveling alone, he left Moshultamåla in Algutsboda Parish on 7 June 1890⁹⁵ and emigrated from Malmö on 12 June 1890, listing New York as his destination.⁹⁶ That he went directly to Iron River is indicated by the fact that he joined the First Lutheran Church of Iron River on 6 July 1890, less than one month after leaving Sweden.⁹⁷ He has not been found in either the 1900 or 1910 federal censuses for the Iron River area.

Frank was living at 410 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington, as of 2 Jan. 1914 and at 84 Yesterway in Seattle as of 25 April 1922. He was alive and living in Seattle as of 1940.⁹⁸

Frank died in on 2 June 1948 at the age of seventy-five and was buried at Riverton Crest (Robbins) Cemetery, Tukwila, Washington.⁹⁹

Endnotes

- ¹ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:4, 1816-37, p. 438, 4 Feb. 1829.
- ² Algutsboda (Smål.), *Döde*, C:6, 1860-1878, pp. 422-423, No. 44.
- ³ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Vigde*, E:1, 1840-65, p. 53, 5 April 1857.
- ⁴ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:4, 1816-37, p. 704, 2 Nov. 1833; Algutsboda (Smål.), *Husförhörs-längd*, AI:17, p. 269, No. 47 Duvemåla.
- ⁵ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:17, I (1855-62), p. 269.
- ⁶ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Husförhörslängder*, AI:17, II (1855-62), p. 331; AI:19, II (1862-70), p. 357; AI:21, II (1870-75), p. 313; AI:24, III (1876-80), p. 756; AI:26, II (1881-90), p. 983.
- ⁷ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:6, 1862-70, pp. 92-93, No. 104.
- ⁸ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:26, II (1881-90), p. 996.
- ⁹ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:5, 1837-62, p. 890, 15 Aug. 1857.
- ¹⁰ First Lutheran Church, Iron River, Michigan, [hereafter FLCIR], Records of Funerals, p. 286.
- ¹¹ His tombstone reads Lindquist / FATHER / AUG 15, 1857 / APR 16, 1922.
- ¹² Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.
- ¹³ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, A. G. Aronsson; age, 24; male; home parish, Algutsboda H; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1881-06-17; destination, Chicago; contract number, 17:913:2030.
- ¹⁴ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ¹⁵ Dals-Ed (Älvs.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:18, 1876-85, p. 667.
- ¹⁶ Dalskog (Älvs.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:16, 1866-70, p. 248.
- ¹⁷ Her tombstone reads WILHELMINA / WIFE OF / Aldo Lindquist / DIED / Apr. 28, 1893 / AGE 31 yrs, 10 mos, 24 dys / Here is one who is sleeping / In faith and love / With hope that is treasured / In heaven above.
- ¹⁸ Bäcke (Älvs.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:10, 1861-65, p. 71, Hjulserud.
- ¹⁹ Dalskog (Älvs.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:15, 1861-65, p. 192 and AI:16, 1866-70, p. 248.
- ²⁰ Dals-Ed (Älvs.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:16, 1866-75, p. 586 and AI:18, 1876-85, p. 667.
- ²¹ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ²² FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11, 25.
- ²³ Her tombstone reads Mother / Anna McCornock / 1884-1963.
- ²⁴ His tombstone reads Father / Archie E. McCornock / 1881-1952.
- ²⁵ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ²⁶ *Iron River Reporter*, "Esther Lindquist," 8 Feb. 1889; She is buried in the same plot as her brother Hjalmer; her tombstone reads Lindquist / Sister / Esther S. / 1885-1989.
- ²⁷ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ²⁸ *Iron River Reporter*, "Hjalmer Lindquist," 18 March 1881; His tombstone reads Lindquist / Husband / Hjalmer A. / 1889-1981.
- ²⁹ Her tombstone reads Lindquist / Wife / Mary F. / 1888-1965.
- ³⁰ Dickinson County, Michigan, Marriage Record, 1891-1918, Vol. 1, p. 27, No. 398. The marriage record indicates that Aldo Lindquist (age 36; a miner; born in Sweden) and Hannah E. Backman (age 34; born in Finland) were residents of Norway, Michigan.
- ³¹ Munsala (Vaasa), Finland, *Syntyneet (Födde)*, A:7, 1853-70, 11 Aug. 1869.
- ³² FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ³³ Her tombstone reads Lindquist / MOTHER / AUG 11, 1869 / AUG 7, 1952.
- ³⁴ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11, 28.
- ³⁵ *Iron River Reporter*, "Carl Lindquist," 17 March 1993; His tombstone reads Lindquist / CARL / DEC 9, 1896 / MAR 9, 1993.
- ³⁶ Her tombstone reads Lindquist / SYLVIA / NOV 16, 1901 / JUNE 22, 1997.
- ³⁷ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11, 35.
- ³⁸ Her tombstone reads Elsa L. Benette / 9 Mar. 1898 - 16 Aug. 1989.
- ³⁹ His tombstone reads Ernest A. Benette / 22 Nov. 1895 - 30 Dec. 1984.
- ⁴⁰ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11.
- ⁴¹ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 1; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11; FLCIR, Records of Baptisms, p. 2.
- ⁴² FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11; FLCIR, Records of Baptisms, p. 6.
- ⁴³ FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 11; FLCIR, Records of Baptisms, p. 8.
- ⁴⁴ Marcia Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future: Iron River Area Michigan*, p. 412.
- ⁴⁵ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:5, 1837-62, p. 926, 9 June 1859.
- ⁴⁶ *Iron River Reporter*, "Axel Aronson, 80, Dies in Seattle," 12 Jan. 1940, p. 1.
- ⁴⁷ Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.

⁴⁸ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, A. J. Aronsson; age, 23; male; home parish, Algutsboda H; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1882-03-24; destination, Chicago; contract number, 19:315:2515.

⁴⁹ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), pp. 1, 26.

⁵⁰ Dickinson County, Michigan, Marriage Record, 1891-1918, Vol. 1, p. 18, No. 259. Although filed in Dickinson County on 26 September 1893, the marriage record clearly states that Axel Aronson (age 33; a miner; born in Sweden) and Betty Peterson (age 29; a dressmaker; born in Sweden) were residents of Iron River, Michigan, and that the marriage took place in Iron River.

⁵¹ Ingelstorp (Krist.), *Födde*, 1842-68, 22 Dec. 1863; Ingelstorp, *Husförhörslängder*, AI:9, 1862-67, p. 80 and AI:10, 1880-1885, p. 113.

⁵² Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.

⁵³ Information from the *CD Emigranten*: name, Bengta Persson; age, 26; female; home parish, Ingelstorp L; occupation, *sömmerska* (seamstress); port of emigration, Malmö; date, 1890-11-06; destination, Iron River, MI; contract number, 1890:3729:2642.

⁵⁴ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 8, 26.

⁵⁵ Her tombstone reads Betty / Wife of / A. Aronson / DIED / NOV 14, 1898 / Aged / 34 Years / 10 mos. 22 dys.

⁵⁶ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 26; Iron County, Michigan, Birth Index Record, 1885-1971, No. 935.

⁵⁷ His tombstone reads ARONSON / Eddie G. / Born June 30, 1894 / Died Jan 18, 1895.

⁵⁸ His tombstone reads ARONSON / Erving / Born June 28, 1896 / Died June 30, 1896.

⁵⁹ Petolahti (Petalaks/Petalax), Finland, *Syntyneet (Födde)*, 2:3, 1837-80, p. 303, 5 Aug. 1864; Petolahti, *Rippikirja (Kommunionbok)*, 1:6, 1858-64, p. 190 (No. 6, Österback).

⁶⁰ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, age, and gender of family members: Carl E. Samuelson, age 39, male; Anna Samuelson, age 35, female; and Signe Samuelson, age 8, female. The following information was the same for all three: home parish, Skön Y; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1899-07-19; destination, Marinette, [Wisconsin]; contract number, 6451:1541.

⁶¹ *Iron River Reporter*, "Axel Aronson, 80, Dies in Seattle," 12 Jan. 1940, p. 1.

⁶² Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:5, 1837-62, p. 980, 24 Dec. 1861.

⁶³ *Iron River Reporter*, "Peter Aronson, City Pioneer, Dies in West," 13 June 1947, p. 1.

⁶⁴ Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.

⁶⁵ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, P. J. Aronsson; age, 20; male; home parish, Algutsboda H; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1882-03-24; destination, Chicago; contract number, 19:315:2516.

⁶⁶ *Iron River Reporter*, "Peter Aronsons Married 50 Years; Receive Congratulations of Friends," 24 July 1941.

⁶⁷ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3.

⁶⁸ Västanfors (Väst.), *Födde*, C:7, 1861-77, No. 43, 25 May 1874; Västanfors, *Husförhörslängd*, AI:19A, 1870-76, p. 235.

⁶⁹ *Iron River Reporter*, "Mrs. Mathilda Aronson Dies in California," 8 Sept. 1966, p. 2.

⁷⁰ Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden; Västanfors (Väst.), *Husförhörslängd*, AI:20A, 1877-86, p. 376.

⁷¹ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, C. A. Eklund; age, 31; male; home parish, Västanfors U; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1880-04-16; destination, Chicago; contract number, 14:511:1004.

⁷² *CD-Emigranten*, Contract No. 14:511:10004.

⁷³ *Iron River Reporter*, 24 July 1941.

⁷⁴ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3.

⁷⁵ *Iron River Reporter*, 24 July 1941.

⁷⁶ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3; Iron County, Michigan, Birth Index Record, 1885-1971, No. 925.

⁷⁷ *Iron River Reporter*, Obituaries, Mildred Aronson, ? Dec. 1996.

⁷⁸ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3.

⁷⁹ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3.

⁸⁰ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3.

⁸¹ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3; Iron County, Michigan, Birth Index Record, 1885-1971, No. 2096.

⁸² *Iron River Reporter*, "Chester Aronson Dies at Oakland," 22 Nov. 1972, p. 2.

⁸³ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3; FLCIR, Records of Baptisms, p. 2.

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- ⁸⁴ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 6; FLCIR, Church Register (1903-1930), p. 3; FLCIR, Records of Baptisms, p. 4.
- ⁸⁵ *Escanaba Daily-Press*, "Mrs. Fredrickson of Soo Hill Dies," Tuesday, 2 Jan. 1962, p. 5.
- ⁸⁶ *Escanaba Daily-Press*, "Chas. Fredrickson," Tuesday, 26 Dec. 1972, p. 3.
- ⁸⁷ Information from *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, age, and gender of family members: Charley Fredriksson, age 48, male; Signe J. Fredriksson, age 33, female; and Margit L. Fredriksson, age 12, female. The following information was the same for all three: home parish, Algutsboda G; port of emigration, Göteborg; date, 1926-03-10; destination, New York; contract number, 117:449:21716. (It is worth noting that Charley's contract number is listed as 117:447:21716, but this must surely be a typographic error.)
- ⁸⁸ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:6, 1862-70, pp. 156-157, No. 134.
- ⁸⁹ *Iron River Reporter*, "Axel Aronson, 80, Dies in Seattle," 12 Jan. 1940, p. 1.
- ⁹⁰ *Iron River Reporter*, "Peter Aronson, City Pioneer, Dies in West," 13 June 1947, p. 1.
- ⁹¹ Algutsboda (Smål.), *Födde*, C:6, 1862-70, pp. 212-213, No. 5.
- ⁹² Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.
- ⁹³ *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: Contract No. 1835:1102.
- ⁹⁴ Curtis Walter Lindquist, interview by author and Ulf Beijbom, Crystal Manor, Crystal Falls, MI, 13 April 2002.
- ⁹⁵ Emibas database at SEI, Växjö, Sweden.
- ⁹⁶ Information from the *Databasen CD Emigranten NR 1 & 2 / 2001*: name, Frank E. Aronsson; age, 17; male; home parish, Algutsboda G; occupation, *dräng*; port of emigration, Malmö; date, 1890-06-12; destination, New York; contract number, 1890:2447:4494.
- ⁹⁷ FLCIR, Church Register (1890-1913), p. 7.
- ⁹⁸ His Seattle addresses were 410 5th Avenue as of 2 Jan. 1914 and 84 Yesterway as of 25 April 1922. - *Iron River Reporter*, "Axel Aronson, 80, Dies in Seattle," 12 Jan. 1940, p. 1.
- ⁹⁹ Obituary, *Seattle Times*, Sunday, 18 June 1948.

The Memoirs of My Uncle Peter Jacob Aronson⁺

Vilhelm Moberg

Translated by Ingrid A. Lang*

Introduced by Ingrid Nettervik[‡]

Annotated by James E. Erickson

Editor's Note: My Swedish ancestors, both paternal and maternal, immigrated to the iron mining villages of Iron River and Stambaugh, Michigan, during the decade of the 1880s. Although I began doing personal family history research in the mid-1970s, it was not until the early 1990s that I entertained the thought of a larger research project focused on all of the West Iron County [Michigan] Swedes.¹ Since that time, I have been awarded two stipends from the Swedish Emigrant Institute (*Svenska Emigrantinstitutet*), in Växjö, Sweden, to work on this project.² During a month-long stay in Växjö in 2001, I came across the manuscript highlighted in this article.

The original manuscript consists of eleven typewritten pages measuring 21.5 x 35.5 centimeters. There are two sets of typed page numbers located at the top, center of each page. One series begins with 40 and continues through 49 (page 50 is not numbered as such). A second series, located directly below the first, begins with 1 (although the number is not shown on the first page) and continues through 9. In this second scheme, the last two pages are not numbered. A third, handwritten pagination scheme, used for cataloging purposes by the archivist at *Svenska Emigrantinstitutet*, is located in the upper right-hand corner of each page (i.e., 7:1:1:1-7:1:1:11). All three pagination schemes have been retained below as reference points for future researchers.

The first nine pages (40-48 / [1]- 9 / 7:1:1:1-7:1:1:9) are included under the heading "Min morbror Peter Jacob Aronsons memoarer;" the last two (49-[50] / 7:1:1:10-7:1:1:11, under "Ur morbror Jakobs memoarer."

The original manuscript contains a number of annotations in Moberg's own hand. They are indicated in *italic* in the following pages.

All corrections of people and place names made by me have been placed in brackets after the actual name found in the manuscript.

⁺ "Utdrag ur min morbror Peter J. Aronssons memoarer," 4. *Memoarer och dagböcker* (7:1:1:1-11), *Utvandrarromanens källor: Förteckning över Vilhelm Mobergs samling av källmaterial, Emigrant-instituets skriftserie*, 1, Ulf Beijbom, Emigrantinstitutet, Utvandrarnas Hus, Växjö, 1972.

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Introduction

In 1998 Vilhelm Moberg's four-volume saga of Swedish immigrants in North America—*The Emigrants* (*Utvandrarna*), *Unto a Good Land* (*Invandrarna*), *The Settlers* (*Nybyggarna*), and *The Last Letter Home* (*Sista brevet till Sverige*)—was voted the Swedish novel of the twentieth century in a competition organized through a popular cultural television program. Those who sent in their votes may be assumed to be culturally interested TV viewers and the result must be looked upon as the choice of the Swedish people. These four novels have made such a great impression on Swedish readers that half a century after publication they were put foremost among Swedish novels written in the twentieth century.

When the novel *The Emigrants* was published in 1949, Vilhelm Moberg was already a well-established author, translated into several languages, but the four novels about the emigrants from Ljuder in Kronobergs län, Småland, strengthened his position as one of the great Swedish writers. He was born in 1898 in Moshultamåla, situated in the part of Småland from which his literary characters come. Moberg's mother had five brothers and one sister who had immigrated to America, his father had three brothers and sisters who had done the same thing. Both his parents were the only children in their families who stayed in Sweden.

"America is one of the first words I learned as a little boy," Moberg writes in the essay *Romanen om utvandrarromanen* (The Novel about the Emigrant Novel). He saw aunts and uncles and their children in beautifully framed photos, placed on the chest of drawers, the pride of place in the cottage. All his cousins were Americans, and for a long time the boy thought that cousins were some sort of superior and more distinguished children only to be found in America.

Letters from all these relatives were frequent, so when Moberg in the 1930s started planning his work about his unknown relations in the U.S., he emptied chests and drawers containing letters from America. He found two or three hundred such letters in his own home, and several more he got hold of from people in the neighborhood. They all had relatives in the big country on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. A great number of people emigrated during the second half of the nineteenth century from the part of Sweden where Moberg was born.

Vilhelm Moberg had earlier written a couple of historical novels, and he was very careful about historical facts. They had to be correct. He soon realized that what he could find in Sweden was not enough; he had to go to America to find out what had happened to Swedish emigrants there and how they had lived their lives. However the second world war intervened. He had to postpone his journey to America and for some years he put aside this project. Instead he engaged himself in anti-German writing. On the ninth of April 1940 German troops invaded Denmark and Norway causing great anxiety to Moberg and indeed most other Swedes. When were German troops to invade Sweden? Moberg wrote a great number of newspaper articles where he criticized the cautious attitude of the Swedish government and gave expression to his opinion of the Germans. His

articles were officially considered a risk because of their frankness, so only two brave newspaper editors dared to publish them. Moberg also wrote the historical and allegorical novel *Rid i natt! (Ride Tonight)*, which upset the Nazis so much that it was burnt in their book fires. After this book everything Moberg wrote was forbidden reading in Germany and the countries occupied by German forces.

When the war was over, Vilhelm Moberg went back to his work on the emigration novels and started writing *The Emigrants*, and finally, in 1948, before this novel was completed (1949), he went with part of his family to the U.S. This was something he had wished to do since he was a child. In fact, as a boy, he had made up his mind to emigrate, and when he was eighteen he received a ticket for America from an uncle, but his parents would not let him go. They made him stay in Sweden by promising him two terms of school (Grimslövs *folkhögskola*).

From an American relative, Vilhelm Moberg received a letter, dated August 8, 1948, urging him to get hold of the memoirs of his uncle, Peter Jacob Aronsson, as dictated to Moberg's cousin, Esther Lindqvist. These memoirs have been translated for this issue of *SAG*. Moberg has written by hand at the top of his typed copy of the memoirs that his uncle died in 1945, aged 83. In a newspaper article published in Sweden in October 1948 he wrote that his uncle died "a couple of years ago, aged 85." Professor Ulf Beijbom, head of the Swedish Emigrant Institute, writes in a book about emigrants from Kronoberg, *Uppbrott från stenriket* (2000), that Peter Jacob died in 1947, aged 86. According to Professor Beijbom, Moberg is not always to be trusted on facts like that. Certainly, Peter Jacob Aronsson had died some time before Moberg arrived in Michigan.

From the date of the letter mentioned above and from the newspaper article, we can assume that Vilhelm Moberg got hold of the memoirs some time in the early part of the autumn of 1948. Apparently he typed them out and, some time later, while considering their value for his novels, made handwritten annotations on his typewritten copy. He also underlined a few things, probably in connection with typing two pages of notes containing useful ideas from the memoirs for his novel. These two pages are attached to the memoirs. Some of the ideas appear in the first novel published in 1949. Therefore we can assume that the manuscript in the Moberg Collection at the Swedish Emigrant Institute was compiled by Moberg some time during the autumn in 1948. He did not date it. The original memoirs must still be somewhere in the U.S. It would be very exciting if this important document could be found.

In the memoirs, Peter Jacob Aronsson recalls that at one point during a journey, when he spent the night in a storage building, he was infested by lice. Moberg quotes this line in his notes after the memoirs, and judging from the lines following the quotation this is how he got the idea for the lice on board the ship in his novel. The character Kristina is infested by lice, as are all of the passengers except Gladan (Ulrika from Västergöhl), whom Kristina blames for the lice. Like Peter Jacob, Karl Oskar several times carries heavy burdens on his back. He also stakes out his land in a way similar to Peter Jacob's description. Peter Jacob mentions Swedish Anna who cooked for six Swedish boys. Moberg

makes her into one of his characters. She is a religious woman who takes on the housekeeping for Kristina's uncle Danjel, who lost his wife during the long and strenuous voyage at sea. Peter Jacob mentions that they felt dumb in the new country. They didn't understand and couldn't speak the language. The feeling is shared by Karl Oskar and Kristina when they arrive in America. Kristina never learns to speak English.

These are a few examples of the use that Vilhelm Moberg made of his uncle's memoirs. However, Gunnar Eidevall, who has written a thesis on the source material for Moberg's emigrant novels (*Vilhelm Mobergs emigrantepos*, 1974) judges that the most interesting of the memoirs or diaries Moberg studied is Mina Anderson's.

oOo

Diaries

-40-

7:1:1:1

The Memoirs of My Uncle Peter Jacob Aronson

*Unfortunately, incomplete
He died 1945—83 years old.*

I don't know where to begin if not with my name and where I was born—in Småland, Sweden, 24 December 1862 [*sic*]. My father owned a small farm located high on a big hill about four kilometers long. We could see four church towers, one of them two-and-a-half miles away—when the sun was shining. We had some timber on the farm, mostly pine but also hardwood, birch, and maple. When I was fifteen years old, my two older brothers, Axel and Aldo, left for northern Sweden to work on the railroad, leaving me to take care of the farm. We had about a dozen animals, one young and one old horse. I plowed and sowed—planted corn, rye and oats, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, and carrots for our own use. We had to sell lumber in Karlskrona in order to pay the taxes.

The farm was located almost on top of the hill. In the winter, twelve people got on two sleds and went down the hill.

My father died at the age of forty-six, my mother died when she was eighty-two. My father died from appendicitis, my mother from old age. I think my father was about my height and weight; maybe he was a little taller. He worked hard, had to in order to support seven children. I remember how he used to cut poplar trees and deliver them to the match factory in Kalmar. He attended the prayer meetings held by "the colporteur," who rode on horseback from village to village. And the church was about one Swedish mile plus one English mile, or eight English miles, from our home. We sometimes drove there and sometimes we walked.

My mother was taller than my father, strong and healthy. My father had dark hair—he didn't live long enough to turn gray.

My grandfather (*farfar*) distilled his own schnapps (*brännvin*). He was well to do for a while. He drove two horses. He stayed out at night and wanted the

boys to stay up to unhitch the horses. If they didn't, he would chase them out of bed so they quickly ran outside and took care of the horses. He gave three of his sons money to purchase a farm. At the time of the railroad construction through the area, school was taught on several farms. The teacher lived in the area from year to year. There were two schools, "the elementary school" and "the great school," the former had four grades, the latter had eight. When it was time to be confirmed, we had to walk to the church, where the pastor lived. Each school usually had forty students. One day, when the railroad between Vexjö [Växjö] and Kalmar was being built, the workers were about two kilometers from our school. We were outside and could hear the train approaching to unload ties and rails. So we all ran to see the engine which seemed to shake the earth. When we returned, our teacher was in the yard, cutting twigs to whip us. But there were too many of us to whip, so he forgave us.

Diaries

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2

7:1:1:2

I worked on the farm for a few years, then we sold it and Aldo Gottfred [Gottfrid] went to the United States. My sister Ida Moberg and her husband left later. My mother kept one cow and a little bit of land and part of the house. She would have everything she needed. Ida Moberg's daughter has now sold the farm and (*built*?) a new house and the Mobergs have built a new house on one acre.

Aldo Gottfred [Gottfrid] came to America in 1881.³ Axel and I arrived in 1882.⁴ I was nineteen years old and Axel was twenty-one when we left Sweden. He had completed three months of military training. The pastor gave us certificates. We received some money when father died, and Aldo sent us some. The tickets cost about \$35. We lived in Mosehultamåla and went by train to Emmaboda. From Emmaboda, we went to Göteborg. We took a steamer to Hull and from there to Glasgow, where we embarked on a ship to New York. It took us three weeks to reach New York. The food was bad and we ran out of water. There was an emigrant [immigrant] train from New York to Chicago. In Chicago, we were free to go where we wanted. Aldo said that when we arrived in Chicago we would get a customs permit—the railroad or the sawmill company hired a person and gave him a ticket to where they wanted him to work. This practice was not in force this year and the railroad company did not hire. I did not have any extra money, so I borrowed \$10 to get to Wisconsin from one of the boys in our company. Aldo had told us he lived in a town, and as all we could see were tree stumps everywhere, we didn't get off the train until the conductor told us to. The train did not go any farther.⁵

We stepped off the train and walked between the pine stumps in the road. After a block or so, we met Lundquist⁶ and a couple of his friends. He had just arrived from I. R. [Iron River] the day before—on foot, probably—to meet us. We turned around and walked the same road back until we came to a hut, which resembled a wood shed to me, where a few Swedish boys were gathered. I was the last one to step inside. Inside, we found a table laden with buns, cookies, and

all kinds of good things to eat. They had a barrel of beer on a chair. Of course, they had some glasses and a little of everything on the table. Lundquist left for Iron River the following day and we went to look for work. We found work in the gravel pit.

Diaries

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3

7:1:1:3

They transported gravel to the mine in Iron [River]—to the Chapin mine. We worked there for two weeks, then we decided to go to Iron River, too. So we resigned our jobs and tried to tell our employer that we wanted to be paid, but he didn't listen. "Time! Time! We must have our time." He didn't even stop to listen. Axel and I began our walk with as much of our extra clothing on our backs as we could carry. It was the third of May, a beautiful day. We started out early in the morning and stopped at the Halfway House for lunch.⁷ The path stretched along Lake Chicago's [ChicagonLake's] south shore. There were a lot of Indian huts.⁸ By nightfall, we ended up in an old roundhouse (a type of storage tent) at Stams [Stambaugh's] depot and slept there on the floor. We were hired by R.R.'s mining company. The mining company had a contract to build a two-mile railroad from S. in the south to meet the railroad from Stager and two (*blank*). We were paid \$30 a month, plus food. Stams [Stambaugh's] mining company was started when the railroad was completed. The first pit was Riterton [Riverton].⁹ Porter¹⁰ was the supervisor and Otto Reibel worked in the office. Later on, the old man owned a store in Stam[baugh], which he sold to Lindwall when Lindwall sold his land in Ontonagon.

We didn't stay there very long. Two Swedish boys built a small log cabin, where the Smiths lived, plus six of us, plus the Swedish woman Anna who worked for us. She used to work for the Boyengtons [Boyingtons].¹¹ When we moved in, we had beds made of lumber in the loft and we collected moss in the woods to use for mattresses. We almost had to crawl on our hands and knees to get into the beds. In the mornings, the mosquitoes came in through the homemade roof shingles. Every evening, we had a large smoking kettle outside the house, which was supposed to drive away the mosquitoes, and at night we brought in a smoking pot to smoke them out. Yes, there were lots of mosquitoes when we first arrived here.

The Swedish woman Anna previously worked for Captain Stephenson¹² at St. Mo.[?] Eklund¹³ purchased a house from Holmberg. The Edlunds¹⁴ and Hagelins¹⁵ built their homes. There were no houses the first year. In 1883, Aldo got a lot and we constructed a wooden tent where six of us lived. Wil[helmina] Nelson,¹⁶ whom Aldo later married, cooked for us.

Diaries

-43-
4

7:1:1:4

People started arriving the first year—Crazy Hanson, Sakrison,¹⁷ [and] Kjellgren,¹⁸ the innkeeper. The railroad came through in the fall of [18]82 and people arrived here very quickly. There was a shop in a blockhouse around the corner, where the office development is today. McDonald¹⁹ later owned a shop where Kelly Bros.²⁰ store is located today.

I worked in different mines—(*blank*), where Chas. Eklund and I were close to drowning once—and later I worked for Selden²¹ exploring Hiawatha, Canal Company, [and] Cask [Cash] entry land.²² In 1887, I signed up for an allotment in Onlagon [Ontonagon]. Everybody—all kinds of people in the company—the Youngs (Bill and Andy),²³ myself, even Mrs. Clark²⁴ owned an allotment. Chief Judge Abbot borrowed my gun before I left; I never got it back. He gave me two dictionaries before he died. Lindwall had property there. The government advertised the land in the newspapers. We were offered [a chance] to buy land for \$1.25 per acre. First we had to clear one acre and plant it, then test it and then receive the contract. We had to walk there to select the land we wanted. After that we received a description to fill in. The government had inspected the land many times before. My property (*blank*).

Axel picked land adjacent to mine. There were numerous pine trees in the area, and by choosing adjoining land parcels, we became the owners of the entire forest, 320 acres.

Axel Lindwall,²⁵ a sailor, was the first to go there. They were gone for ten days and ten nights. Then received an answer from the government that the land in question was not yet open for settlements. So Lindwall and Axel and I went up there a second time and found the previously described pine forest. According to the description, the property was located by the edge of the woods. We used maps to find it. We took the train to Watersmelt [Watersmeet] and walked by foot to the property, which was close to Ewen. The muddy road was sometimes impossible to get through. The D. S. shoreline²⁶ was being built at this time. All goods had to be transported from Watersmelt [Watersmeet]. The railroad owned a store, O'Brien's, to which paths lead from every homestead. We used to go there to buy groceries when we ran out and we had to go there to pick up our mail. Two of the miles were through the forest. And we went to buy flour and beans, but they only had enough for their own use. All we got was a bottle of kerosene. We returned to the storage shed, which we planned to build in the fall. All we had to eat for three days before we returned to I. R. [Iron River] to get supplies, were meat and cheese—wild meat—rabbit and deer.

I carried an iron stove full of bedding and half a window on my back, and a cheese in front. As we walked through the mud, I got stuck and had to be pulled out. We had 30 miles to walk, first to Bouce's [Bruce] Crossing and then into the country. My whole back was skinned. The others carried the same loads. We walked to Bouce's [Bruce] Crossing—20 miles—stayed at the R. R. storage

building, where we caught lice just as in Watersmelt [Watersmeet] (1st trip - 2 all of - ?). We selected land for ourselves. We slept in a tent and stayed for ten days and ten nights. We selected allotments. Lindwall's allotment was the first one along the path, then Axel's and then mine. Lindwall got sick. We walked for a whole day in the warm fall sun. We could not find any water. Around sunset, we came upon the military road leading from Green Bay to Ont[onagan]. In the ditch by the road was some green water, full of horse manure, which we strained using our (*blank*) and made tea of. Toward morning, Lindwall became ill. We didn't have anything to help him. Axel and I found a storage shed, where we got some whisky for him. We had a small tent and sometimes we slept on the ground. We walked several days just to find a sign telling us that the land had already been taken. This was the reason it took us so long. We arrived late and most of the land was already taken, but we finally got an allotment each and began the return trip to sign up for the land before someone else did. We cut down a couple of trees and wrote the date when the land was taken, along with our names. We returned in order to build a storage shed according to the government's specifications, 14 by 16, with a door and windows. We had to clear one acre. When we arrived, Lindwall stayed on his land and Axel and I settled down with a plan to construct Axel's building first. We slept on blankets and woke up to find 4 inches of snow on our blankets. We crawled out, started a fire, made some coffee and had breakfast. After that, we decided to go and see how Lindwall was doing. We noticed the tracks where he had crawled out of his bed. He had written a note on a big birch tree, saying that he was on his way back to Stambaugh; it was too cold here. Axel and I went back and began to cut timber. By the time we returned to I. R. [Iron River] about a week later, we had the walls and the roof finished. We had to build the roof using hollow cedar in order to get a roof that would keep out the rain.

Diaries

-45-

7:1:1:6

6

We sealed the cracks in the roof and walls with moss to keep out the cold and fastened the moss with wood planks. When one tent was completed, we went down for supplies and returned with big loads. We lived in Axel's tent while working on mine. This is how we spent the winter. I borrowed some [?] from Captain Johnson²⁷ to help with my land. We cleared land and planted potatoes in the spring. We got a lot of nice, big potatoes. We brought the last of the potatoes up there in the spring. We had about 100 potato plants—a whole lot. We carried them up and left them there, tried it out in 1888. We walked back and forth all summer. Once, fire had gone through it and destroyed the bark.

Another time, a storm had knocked down trees along the entire path. The next time, all these trees had been burnt. We had planned to cut them up for lumber. John Sitting was up there and helped us build logging roads. We were offered \$10,000 for this, but it was worth twice as much. When fire had destroyed it, we had to sell it for \$5,000. This man had two daughters who were

killed in the fire at Idogin's Theater. He said, "When I have sold the logs I will let you know so you can pay the taxes." He didn't let us know until it was as much as \$300. I was stupid enough to pay for many years to come. Axel sold his land to someone in Norway, Michigan. I let my land go back to the government.

We could not be gone for more than 30 days the winter we stayed on our land for fear that someone would take possession of our land. L[indwall] stayed away longer than that, so an old man settled down in his storage shed and began to cut wood and clear land. Axel and I noticed this and went down to tell L[indwall], who went back with us. He wanted us to go in with him. The three of us took the bed, told the old man he had to sleep on the floor. He stayed for three days. He was alone and we were three, so he was crowded out.

The last time I worked for Selden, I dug a test pit for his excavation work for the S[tambaugh] depot. He told me to keep digging until he returned. I continued to work every day. The pit got so deep that I had to move the dirt many times.

Diaries

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7:1:1:7

7

I found a little ore in a corner. The same fall, they began opening a pit and found ore; this mine was called the Commonwealth Mine. When Selden returned, I asked him if he could give me work over the winter. He could not promise me that, so I left to work for W. W. Hunter in his store.²⁸ This was really a turning point. I said good-bye to the mines and never returned. In 1890, Hunter gave me five months off from work. I went to Augustana to study. When I returned, he offered me work inside the store. Before, I had taken care of the horses, delivered goods and taken sale orders. I had to carry wood and coal and do all (*blank*). He bought a cow in Wis[consin] and wanted me to do the milking. I told him I had never milked and I never would and that he had two weeks to find someone else to take my place.

Before two weeks had passed, he had hired his brother to milk and do (*blank*) and he raised my wages with \$10 besides. I now earned \$50 a month, which was more than the miners earned. The best miners earned \$2 a day, with deductions for each day off.

1883

Six Swedes had a contract to build a one-half mile long road from the curve by Mapleton—now Inn West—to the present And[rew] E[rickson] line. The group consisted of Crazy Hanson, And[rew] Erick[son],²⁹ myself, Swanson (he went back to Småland) and two more, whose names I can't remember. We earned \$5 a day and worked from sunrise to sunset. We had to cut trees and dig them out. We built a small storage [shed] from poles. We carried water.

We used a 15-gallon wine kettle to carry the water. First, two people carried the kettle, which hung from a rope on a pole, and then C. Hanson carried it himself using a carrying belt, and the rest of us took (*blank*). And. Erick was only 19 years old at the time.

Diaries

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8

7:1:1:8

One Saturday evening on our way home, Hanson said, "Let's take a shortcut south of Ice Lake. I bet you a pitcher of beer that I can beat you."

I started down my path, he started by the road construction site. He came running and others tried to get him to explain the reason for the hurry. When I arrived in the town of Mas.[?] I was told that he still was not home. I could have run the stretch one more time before he came home.

Eklund and I came wandering in Man.[?] one Saturday night. Most of the men were already there. We must have been a little late. Halfway down the stream, we noticed water. I had as many drills as I could carry and Eklund, too. I screwed the drills and started to run with Eklund behind me. The closer we came to the pit, the deeper the water got. It must have been 3 1/2 to 4 feet deep. We managed to grab the ladder and climbed up to where the pumps were. The pumps were not running and the pump man was sound asleep. We woke him up. Then we had to walk home in our frozen clothes.³⁰

When I returned from Augustana, I began working for Hunter again, and then I got married—1891. In 1892, Hunter wanted me to buy the store. I didn't want to buy it. Hopkins was in the process of selling his patent for gates. Hunter went to Wisconsin to sell gates and left me to take care of the store. He wrote home that the gates sold like hot cakes. I told him I would like to sell gates, too. Hunter sold the store to Brunell, the depot agent. He didn't get any cash, just a letter from Brunell, which guaranteed monthly installments. Roundy, Peckham & Co. had a mortgage on the supplies and they left Brunell out and sold everything on auction. When they were finished, I wrote to Hunter, asking him how much he wanted for the building. He replied, \$1,000. So I purchased the building for cash.

I left for Minnesota.

I went to see him down in Shrocton [Shiocton], Wis[consin]. Around this time, I also purchased 20 acres of land north of town. We went to Appleton to purchase supplies at the mill, bought a wagonload of flour and feed. Hunter went with me to Appleton.

Diaries

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9

7:1:1:9

I also bought a horse, hitched the horse to a wagon and loaded flour in one end and feed in the other and shipped it all to Iron River. From Appleton, I went

to Johannes Bros. in Green Bay and bought my groceries. I had not made a list of what to buy. I could see Hunter's shelves in my mind, starting in the northeast corner of his store, following them along one wall, across and up along the other wall—I didn't overlook anything. I also purchased food in Green Bay, and china. When I had returned home, the goods began to arrive and I opened the store immediately. At this time, I didn't have any money so I borrowed a \$25 gold coin from my brother-in-law to pay for the shipping. When I purchased the building, I told Hunter that I could not pay for the land. Instead, I gave him an IOU and he told me to pay when I could. But shortly thereafter, he sent me a demand note. Ballow in Karney [Carney, Michigan], who bought timber, had paid Hunter in advance so that he would buy from the farmers. Hunter did not honor his contract, and said that Ballow was after him for the money when he left here. As I was unable to pay my bill, he sent it to Ballow as payment for his own debt. I had also shipped lumber to Ballow, but instead of money, I received a bill.

These were hard times—1893 and 1894—and it was rather difficult to run a store.³¹ People did not have much money. Most of my customers were farmers, and I had to take lumber, hay, butter, eggs, whatever they had for sale. I used to ship hay to C (*blank*) everywhere. The mines were not in operation.

I always had an errand boy. Anna L. worked for me. Every time I wanted to go fishing, I had to call down my wife.

Times took a turn for the better and we were doing well. I thought I would like to take a trip home to Sweden to visit my mother. I recruited Gust Ruus as a partner to run the store while I was gone. This was 1904. Gust and I ran the store until 1912, when I sold my part to H[jalmar] L[indquist].³² I rented out the house for many years for \$100 a month. In 1941, I sold it to Mr. Mayhew.

Diaries

-49-

7:1:1:10

1

Excerpts from Uncle Jakob's memoirs.

The beginning can be used for the first chapter.

He was born on top of big hill, from which they could see four churches when the sun was out. They had about a dozen cattle, one young horse and one old. They sold—had to sell timber in Karlskrona to pay the taxes. The father was five feet tall, the mother was taller.

The grandfather (*furfadern*) distilled his own schnapps. He drove out his sons at night to take care of the horses.

School was taught on different farms.

There were emigrant trains from New York to Chicago. (When did these emigrant trains start running? When was the railroad from New York to Chicago opened?)

They arrived at a hut—just a wood shed—which had been built by Swedish boys.

They had set the table with a lot of food, everything good, pork and potatoes and bread and butter and cheese.

They had a keg of beer, and they drank a lot of beer.

They walked through the woods. They were unsure about the direction. Here and there were marks in the trees. They were marks from the settlers' axes, making their ownership marks on the trees.

There were marks by people, by axes, by peoples' tools. People had been here and claimed their property.

They continued walking.

Tree stumps were visible. People had been here. They continued their trek through the woods.

They met people, but were not able to talk to them. So it was best to be quiet.

Finally, the strangers got angry when they didn't answer them.

They walked on as if they were deaf and dumb in the new land. They did not hear and they did not speak. They did not have use for either ears or mouths (tongue).

The forest fire swept the land, which was worth \$10,000—now it is worth \$500 [sic].

Diaries

7:1:1:11

2

Most of the land is taken!

From Uncle Jakob's memoirs:

Most of the land was taken!

The Swedish woman Anna cooked—fixed food—for six Swedish boys. She had twelve cats, who licked the coffee cups and washed the dishes for her.

They could take land in 1887 without paying anything at the time in Michigan. In some places, the land had not been opened for settlers.

They carried loads of essential goods—flour, pork, meat—for 30 English miles, so their backs were skinned. (Good pictures from the lives of the settlers.)

During their walk, they were infested by lice in a night quarters.

(They could be infested already during the trip to Karlshamn—they are infested on the ship, but who is to blame? They all blame each other:

You have given the rest of us lice! They blame Gladan!

The lice want to emigrate, too—they are coming with us!

Remember that the forest workers [lumberjacks/loggers] in America often had lice. My brother-in-law Karl was once full of lice. And the lice in America were much more aggressive, bit harder and were harder to get rid of than the lice in Sweden—the native lice. God save us from the American lice!

One morning during their walk, they awoke with 4 inches of snow on the blankets.

The settlers wrote their names and date on the trees in their “claim” or area—they used a red logger’s pen. Now everybody knew who lived there. K. O. writes: Karl Oskar Nilsson, Swedish, or from Sweden.

They got their goods from the storekeeper in exchange for timber, hay, eggs, and butter—the settlers did not have cash.

One friend was ill—all they had to give him was whisky.

They worked for a boss, but did not get paid. They called:
Give us our time! Our time—our money!

They had mostly potatoes the first few years, and lived on that. Got 100 bushels in ? = 60 barrels.

Endnotes

¹ See, for example, James E. Erickson, "The Hjulsjö (Öre.) to Stambaugh, MI Migration Axis," *Swedish American Genealogist* XI (March 1991): 1-33.

² In both 1996 and 2001, I was awarded research scholarships of SEK 20,000 by the board of the Swedish Emigrant Institute to support my "Swedes of West Iron County, MI" research project.

³ Aldo Gottfrid left Göteborg on 17 June 1881; with Chicago as his destination.

⁴ Axel Julius and Peter Jacob left Göteborg on 24 March 1882, with Chicago listed as their destination.

⁵ In the summer of 1879, railroad construction crews had reached the halfway point between Quinnesec, Michigan, and Florence, Wisconsin. On 12 September 1880, the first train entered Florence. As of April 1882, the train only went as far as Stager (originally called Iron River Junction) in Iron County. The extension of the Menominee Branch of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad from Stager to the Iron River area was completed in October 1882. - Jack Hill, *A History of Iron County Michigan* (Iron County Museum: Caspian, MI, 1976), 71, 74, 75, 76; Marcia Bernhardt, ed. *Frames for the Future: Iron River Area Michigan* (The Iron County Historical and Museum Society: Caspian, MI, 1980), 190.

⁶ This is undoubtedly a typographical error; the surname should read Lindquist, not Lundquist. Two lines of evidence support this contention. First, I have come across no one in my research on West Iron County Swedes with the surname Lundquist. Second, Peter Jacob's older brother, Aldo Gottfrid Aronsson, took the surname Lindquist after his arrival in the U.S. It would have been natural for Aldo to meet his brothers at "the end of the line." This supposition is corroborated by the following statement by Hill: "In 1882, he [Peter J. Aronsson] left Sweden and came directly to the end of the railroad line at Florence, Wisconsin, where he was met by his eldest brother, Aldo Lindquist, who had made the trip from Iron River on foot for the meeting. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 134.

⁷ Peter Jacob and Axel walked a well-traveled trail between Florence, Wisconsin, and Iron River, Michigan, a distance of approximately 15-20 miles. Note that in the following description of this trail, *two* halfway houses are mentioned: "[Mastodon] Township was the gateway to the vastness of the Iron County wilderness. Here entered the trail followed by hundreds of land-lookers, [timber] cruisers, [iron ore] explorers, settlers, and others who in the short span of fifteen years preceding 1880, selected or purchased some sixty per cent of the county's total land area....The lands embraced in this township were, by their location, most accessible to the advance from the southeast....The early trail [followed the south side of the Brule River until it crossed the river] near the south quarter corner of Section 11, some two miles east of the present crossing of U.S. [Highway] 2. The trail divided about one mile north of the river, one branch striking westerly toward Iron River and the other taking a general northerly course to Crystal Falls....The trail toward Iron River was somewhat outlined by state geologist C. Rominger on his inspection of mining areas in 1880. Mr.

Rominger reported a *halfway house operated by a Mr. Brown in the vicinity of Stager* [italic mine]. The trail led in a northerly direction from this point to the site of the present village of Alpha....From this point the trail swung in a southwesterly direction to *the south end of Armstrong Lake where Mr. John Singler is reported to have kept a halfway house for the early settlers* [italic mine]. No mention however is made of this house by Mr. Rominger. The trail took a general straight northwesterly course from this point to the Indian village at the south end of Che-Ko-Gan (Chicagon) Lake where a branch of the Chippewa tribe under the local chieftain John Edwards had a sizeable village....Mr. Rominger continued his journey now in a westerly course from the village [to the] Iron River valley.” - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 74, 76, 166-67.

⁸ In October of 1879, a party of men and ten ponies with travois (each loaded with one hundred pounds of supplies and equipment) led by state geologist C. Rominger, made the forty-mile trip from Quinnesec to Iron River. He noted that approximately seventy-five individuals composed the Chippewa village located at the south end of Chicago Lake. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 74.

⁹ “Exploratory work on the Iron River Mine (also later known as the Stambaugh and Riverton Mine) was begun in 1880 and results were sufficiently encouraging to induce the Emmet Mining Company, an organization formed by Kimberly & Boyce Company of Sharon, Pennsylvania, to undertake development of a mine in the spring of 1881....The mine workings are situated one-quarter mile due west of the initially platted village of Stambaugh. It was on the south end of the workings of this mine that the first iron ore was noted on the west side of Iron County. The discovery was made by Harvey Mellen, a surveyor of government lands, while engaged in the subdivisions of the townships into sections. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 73-75.

¹⁰ In 1881 James N. Porter, “a gentleman of considerable practical experience in the Ohio coal mines and in the lead mines of Missouri,” came to the Iron River district from Youngstown, Ohio, to become superintendent of the Iron River Mine workings for the Tod, Stambaugh Company. In an 1883 annual report, Charles E. Wright, Commissioner of Mineral Statistics, noted that “[Porter] has been on the ground for the year past and endured the mosquitoes and sand flies in a shanty by the river through one season while clearing the ground and directing the preliminary work of bringing order and civilization out of the roughest wilderness.” Porter and his wife moved to Colorado in 1891. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 80, 122.

¹¹ Andrew J. Boyington, the son of Asahel Boyington, was b. in Allegany Co., New York, 3 September 1842 and d. in Iron River 20 November 1923. During the Civil War, he served for four years (1861-65) with Company H, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, losing his left arm in the process. He married Lefa Wait in New Berlin, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, on 16 March 1872. Lefa, who was b. in New Berlin on 30 June 1850, was the daughter of Thaddeus Wait and Lura Barber.

“[The Boyington family] arrived in [Iron River] on 16 February 1882. The site of Iron River was then a wilderness, the only buildings in the vicinity being three small log cabins. He at once began the erection of a hotel, which, though it was then far from complete, he opened to the public on 1 November 1882. It contained fifty rooms, and was well equipped for those days. On 27 June 1885 the structure was burned but Mr. Boyington, with characteristic enterprise, moved to a house nearby and continued as before to entertain travelers. In the meantime, the work of rebuilding progressed...and on 1 July 1886 the new Boyington Hotel threw open its doors to the public. In addition to conducting his hotel, Mr. Boyington also operated his farm of two hundred and forty acres, two miles and a half from the village center, raising an ample supply of milk and vegetables for the hotel and all of the hay needed in his livery [stable]. In 1897 he admitted his son, Philip L., born [in Menomonie, Wisconsin] 29 January 1876, to partnership and continued with him until 1906, when he sold out to his partner.” - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 99, 127; Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 381-382.

¹² The name “Captain” implies that this individual was a mining captain, i.e., a man in charge of day-to-day mining operations for one shift at a particular mine. Captain Stephenson may have been one of the following three individuals with the surname Stephenson who were active in Iron County at this time.

Two brothers, Ross R. and Samuel M. Stephenson, emigrated from New Brunswick, Canada, to Menominee, Michigan, where they became involved in logging and sawmilling operations. They were among the second wave of private land buyers—most of whom were associated with railroad, mining, or lumber enterprises—who invested in Iron County timberland between 1870 and 1875. Samuel Stephenson and William Holmes purchased the south half of the southeast quarter of section 7 [later part of Gaastra] in 1880. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 32, 128, 143.

Isaac Stephenson was associated with the Menominee River Manufacturing (alias Boom) Company that was organized in 1866 and reorganized, expanded, and incorporated in 1872 “for the purpose of driving, sorting, and dividing the logs of [affiliated] companies.” In 1874 these affiliates “were in possession of between eighty and ninety thousand acres of Iron County timber lands. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 45.

¹³ Carl August Eklund (b. Västanfors [Väsm.] 12 Dec. 1848) and his wife, Anna Carolina Persdotter (b. Västanfors [Väsm.] 12 Dec. 1849), emigrated from Göteborg on 16 April 1880 bound for Chicago. Peter Jacob married their oldest daughter, Mathilda Carolina, on 25 July 1891.

¹⁴ Gustaf Persson Edlund (b. Järnboås [Väsm.] 7 Oct. 1856) emigrated from Göteborg on 14 Nov. 1879 bound for Chicago. His future wife, Matilda Wilhelmina Hansdotter (b. Nora [Väsm.] 9 July 1863), emigrated in 1881. They were married in Iron River on 19 Dec. 1885.

¹⁵ John August Hagelin (1842-1927) and Ingeborg Bridget ---? (1849-1925) emigrated in 1879 and 1882, respectively. They were married in 1882. Both are buried in Resthaven Cemetery, Iron River Township, Iron County, Michigan.

¹⁶ Wilhelmina Nilsdotter was b. in Hjulserud, Bäcke Parish, on 4 May 1861; emigrated from Sweden in 1881; married Aldo Gottfrid in Florence, Wisconsin, on 26 Aug. 1882; died in Norway, Michigan, on 28 April 1893; and was buried in Quinnesec Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.

¹⁷ This is undoubtedly a reference to Olof Edvin Zachariasson (alias Olof Sackerson) who was born in Sillbodal (S) on 1 Dec. 1853 and emigrated from Trankil in 1877.

¹⁸ Carl Kjellgren (Charles Shellgren) was born in 1863 and emigrated in 1882. His wife, Wilhelmina, was born in 1864 and emigrated in 1883. Possibly the son of Olof Fredrik Kjellgren, who was born in Börrum (Östg.) on 18 April 1844; died in Iron River, Michigan, on 9 May 1892; and was buried in Quinnesec Cemetery, Dickinson Co., Michigan.

¹⁹ "John MacDonald [also McDonald]...was born in Inverness, Scotland, on 9 November 1845 [and came to Canada as a young man. Later he moved to northern Wisconsin where he was] engaged in a tea and spice business in Marinette. [He] was induced to come to Quinnesec [Michigan] about the year 1878, when he started a grocery business. In the year 1881, the Iron River district looked more promising so he shipped his stock to Florence [Wisconsin] by rail and hauled it overland with teams to the new location, setting up his business [a general mercantile store] in a log cabin situated immediately east of the present post office. Here he was selected as the first postmaster....The following year Mr. MacDonald moved his store into the Innes Block opposite the Boyington Hotel....The log cabin post office structure was converted into a home for the MacDonald family, which arrived in 1882....Mr. MacDonald died on 4 June 1933." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 135.

"MacDonald...was also the first township treasurer and donated the land for the Iron River Cemetery. With John L. Buell and the MacKinnon brothers, he aided in the development of the Nanaimo Mine and afterwards opened the Beta Mine. He left the area in about 1896 and moved to Colorado where he was engaged in mining....His wife, Christina, was born in Inverness, Scotland, and brought to Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada, by her parents as a baby. They were married in London, Ontario. The MacDonalds had five children—Minnie, Kitty, Tera, Ronald, and 'Sandy.' John died in [Denver, Colorado on 4] June 1933 and Christina in June 1931." - Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 32-33.

²⁰ "Michael Kelly was born in Loughrea, County Galway, Ireland, [on] 29 September 1856. He came to American in the 1880s, staying in Boston, Massachusetts, for a short time. Looking for better working opportunities, he came to Michigan. He worked for a time in a mine in Vulcan, but after a disaster in the mine, decided to become self-employed. He came to Iron River where he operated a general merchandise store on the corner of Second and Main Streets. His brother Patrick, who was working in Iron Mountain as a stone mason, came to help in the store and as Mike became busy in other work, Pat took over the management of the store. Many local and national political questions were discussed and argued around the pot-bellied stove by the local politicians.

Jokingly, it was called "Tammany Hall." - Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 406-407.

²¹ "The Selden family made its entry into the district with the arrival of William H. Selden in 1878. The Seldens were natives of Connecticut and were currently engaged on railroad surveying projects....Following a thorough exploration of the area, Mr. Selden purchased several tracts of land and returned to his work of surveying for the winter. In the early spring of 1879 he returned to the area with his father, Richard L. Selden. Upon further investigation of the lands in the area, the senior Selden filed a homestead claim to a quarter section of land adjacent to the noted discoveries of the General Land Office surveyors located on the west side of the Stambaugh hill.

Richard L. Selden was born in Connecticut in 1824. There he received his early education and in the year 1856 was elected to the state legislature. A surveyor by profession, he followed the advance of the railroads to the west and in 1872, we find him engaged in the railroad surveys leading to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. While working on the extension of the Menominee River Railroad west of Powers, he became interested in iron land and in 1878 he turned his energies to exploring and mining promotion. In 1879, he secured possession of a 160-acre homestead in Section 35....These lands proved to be rich in iron...." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 88, 122.

²² This rather curious and cryptic sentence is undoubtedly referring to three different types of land on which Richard L. and William H. Selden were actively exploring for iron ore.

Hiawatha land is most likely a reference to land, owned by the Seldens, on which the Hiawatha Mine was developed. According to Hill, "the Seldens continued their exploration on their own adjoining homestead lands to the west [i.e., land adjacent to the noted discoveries of the General Land Office surveyors located on the west side of the Stambaugh hill]. These efforts soon proved the existence of good ore. The position of these ores, however, did not afford the conditions of ready removal by the quarrying methods employed in the early stages of the two former mines [the Iron River and the Isabella] and development was delayed for ten years. On these lands was later opened the well-known Hiawatha and Chatham Mines." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 88.

Canal Company land is undoubtedly a reference to land selected in Iron County as part of The Portage Lake Ship Canal Grant. "In March 1865, [the United States] Congress provided for the enterprise [the construction of the Portage Lake Ship Canal near Houghton, Michigan] in a grant of 400,000 acres to the State [of Michigan]. The work was undertaken in 1866...and completed in 1873....Some 50,000 acres of these lands were selected in Iron County. There was no order in the selection of these lands and all parts of the county were covered...." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 29.

Cash entry land is a reference to private land that was purchased by individuals known as cash entry men. They were private land buyers as opposed to homesteaders and pre-emptioners. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 31-33, 98.

²³ "William Young was born in Ballysadare, County Sligo, Ireland, on 4 October 1846. He arrived in Detroit in 1866. He took a sailboat to Sault Sainte Marie [Michigan] and in 1870 he arrived in Marquette. In 1873 he went to Fort William, Ontario, but he returned to Marquette in 1875. He came to Stambaugh in 1882 with his brothers, Tom and Andrew, and worked in mining operations and helped to build the first buildings around the old Riverton Mine. With his brothers he cleared the first streets of Iron River. He homesteaded the Bengal Mine site, becoming one-half fee owner. He developed the Young's block on Washington Avenue in Stambaugh and at various times operated a store. He was postmaster and helped organize the Commercial Bank. He married Mary Geintzschein Folgelgren [Rosa Maria Gerntscheim] who died in 1903." - Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 451.

"He became the district distributor of petroleum products, mainly kerosene, for lighting purposes....[and later] the representative of the DuPont Powder Company. Mr. Young...died on 12 January 1935." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 134.

²⁴ This is probably a reference to the wife of Fay G. Clark, "a lands examiner [surveyor] who followed the progress of the Menominee River Railroad and came to the village [of Iron River] in 1881. Mr. Clark was a native of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, where he was born in 1851." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 162.

²⁵ This is a reference to Olof Johan Lindvall, who was born in Överluleå [Nobo.] on 19 July 1850. He emigrated from Luleå in July of 1881 with his wife, Hilda Johanna Nilsdotter (b. 11 Feb. 1852), and son, Johan Alfred (b. 1 July 1880). Olof J. was "the local [timber] cruiser who aided many of the early settlers to locate their lands." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 117.

According to Hill, "Mr. [Peter J.] Aronson was engaged in mining, railroad work, and as a grocery clerk in the store of Mr. Hunter until 1887, when he joined John Lindwall and others in filing on newly opened homestead lands in Ontonagon County near the site of Ewen." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 134.

²⁶ This is a reference to the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railroad Company, which had taken over the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon Railroad Company. - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 26.

²⁷ The name "Captain" implies that this individual was a mining captain, i.e., a man in charge of day-to-day mining operations for one shift at a particular mine. Captain Johnson has not been identified.

²⁸ Peter worked "as a grocery clerk in the store of Mr. Hunter." - Hill, *History of Iron County*, 134.

²⁹ "Andrew Erickson, the son of Erick and Anna Löfberg, was born in Härge, Sweden, on 6 October 1864. In 1881, at the age of 17, he came to the United States with his parents and brother and sisters, first to Commonwealth, Wisconsin, and then to Bates to establish a homestead on Section 21, on what is now U.S. 2 between Mapleton and Bates School. He later acquired the property from his father....Andrew Erickson helped hew the first highway from Iron River as far east as the Chicagon Lake Mine in 1883. He had a contract for one-quarter

mile. That first route ran north to Iron River Cemetery, then east to the present U.S. 2 junction with Hunter Road. His first wife, Caroline, died July 24, 1889, after giving birth to twins, a boy and a girl, who also died. Caroline had been kicked by a cow and went into early labor. Andrew later married Anna Sundin in 1898. Anna was born in Sweden in 1874. One daughter was born to the Ericksons....Andrew Erickson passed away on March 1, 1954, at his home at the age of 89 years. Anna Erickson died in 1955 at the age of 81. They had been married for 55 years.” - Lindbeck, *Bates Township Legacy*, 119.

³⁰ This paragraph is a more detailed description of the mining “incident” alluded to in the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 43 / 4 / 7:1:1:4 of the diary, where Peter Jacob comments that “I worked in different mines—(blank), where Chas. Eklund and I were close to drowning once...”

³¹ According to Bernhardt, “Aronson was in the [grocery] business in 1894 and retired at the same site in 1912.” Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 288.

³² “August Ruus entered the employ of Nelson E. Fisher in 1900. Mr. Fisher owned and operated a pioneer food store on Adams Street. In 1911, Ruus entered a partnership with another pioneer Iron River man, Peter Aronson....When Aronson retired, Ruus took Hjalmer Lindquist as his partner, and the firm became Ruus and Lindquist. In 1935 Mr. Ruus became the sole owner. - Bernhardt, *Frames for the Future*, 296.

The Story About the Mistelås Murder⁺

Elisabeth Anderberg*

Rune Johansson is like an open history book. He is interested in history and has worked on an inventory of crofters' holdings (*torp*) for a long time.

One day, he invited *Smålandsposten's* reporter to his home and told about an event that only a few people know about—the murder in Mistelås parsonage in 1744.

"Well, not much has been written about this," says Rune as he looks through his papers.

He finally finds the documents from the county court judgment book. The documents are dated 11 June 1744 and Hans Joakim Kempf served as the judge.

"Let's see how it all began," Rune mumbles and begins jokingly, "Once upon a time...."

A man by the name of Per Larsson had worked for Pastor Nils Hagelberg at Mistelås as a farm hand. Toward the end of the 1730s, the pastor accused Larsson of theft on the farm.

Larsson became very angry and decided to take revenge one day.

A few years later, Larsson happened to be taken into custody and was jailed in Alvesta together with another person, Olof Jonsson.

"It doesn't say what crime they had committed," says Rune, and continues to read.

Escaped from jail

The two men broke the cell padlock and then replaced it neatly so the guards would not suspect anything. Then they ran off.

They each stole a horse from the crofter's holding (*torp*) Alvesta Grind and rode through the forest toward Mistelås parsonage.

When they arrived, Per walked up to the house and intended to gain entry to the pastor's wife. He discovered the doors were locked. First he threw a rock through the window, then went to get an ax to break the doorframe.

"You blasted whore!" Per yelled at the wife, Christina Hagelberg.

Two of the children, Ulrika and Erik, became the witnesses to a fight between their mother and Per. She pulled his hair and held him down by lying on top of him.

⁺ This article first appeared under the title "*Historien om mordet i Mistelås*" in *Smålandsposten* (Växjö, Sweden), 14 August 2001, p. B-1. Used with permission. Ingrid Lang, Swedish Translation Service, 13415 10th Avenue S.E., Milaca, MN 56353, translated this article to English.

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Olof came running to pull the woman away from Per. Per told him to kill her with the ax, but Olof refused. Instead, she was beaten with a rake and a piece of wood until she begged for her life. All of this in front of her children.

"Yes, it was a terrible thing," sighs Rune and turns the page.

After the assault, the two men walked toward the pastor's bedroom. What they didn't know was that the man in the bed was not the pastor, but the tailor Anders Valberg.

"In those days, tailors traveled between the different farms and stayed a few weeks in each place to finish their work. Then they went to the next farm," explains Rune.

"Just this one night, the tailor must have taken the opportunity to sleep in a real bed while the pastor was gone."

Wrong man assaulted

Per walked up to the man, whom he presumed was the pastor, and immediately began assaulting him. He did not notice he had the wrong man, but continued the beating. The tailor fought for his life and managed to escape the house. Outside, he fell to the ground and was beaten to death with the ax. Neither one of the men had discovered they had the wrong man.

Now the men had to hurry. The servants had run for help. They took an unknown amount of money from the parsonage and left quickly, so quickly that Per lost his hat.

He was unfortunate to lose this particular hat. Another farm hand who had worked with Per knew he had been cutting on his hat. This particular cutting pattern was evident on the hat found in the yard and the county sheriff Nils Ekström picked up Per and Olof for questioning.

The men flatly denied everything, but eventually the pressure became too much for Olof who admitted his guilt and Per could not deny it either.

Punishment: Decapitation

Both men were sentenced to death by decapitation on the shore of Lake Dansjön.

Rune closes the folder containing the documents and puts it aside.

"I bet Per was shocked to find out he had taken revenge on the tailor," he says.

But what happened to the wife? And what about the pastor and the money, where did it go?

"The wife died from the results of the beating and the pastor eventually remarried," explains Rune and returns the folder to the bookshelf. But the money was never recovered, so it is probably still somewhere between Mistelås and Alvesta.

"Their son Erik who witnessed the beating of his mother, became feeble-minded and was admitted to Växjö Hospital where he eventually died. There is a story about him also, but we will save it for another time," smiles Rune.

Genealogical Workshop: Emigration and Immigration Records⁺

Jill Seaholm*

Harbor police started keeping track of emigrants leaving Sweden's largest port, Göteborg, in April 1869. Although a few Swedish ports have earlier records, only a handful of people are included in them and they are incomplete. Finding departure records for Swedes who left between 1850 and 1869 will often not be possible. Prior to that, there is some U.S. arrival information compiled in *Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the United States 1820-1850* by Nils William Olsson and Erik Wikén and there is an index of Swedes arriving in New York between 1861-1869.

For 1869 on, most departure records have been indexed alphabetically and microfilmed. In the 1990s those indexes were published on a CD-ROM called *CD-Emigranten*. There were several databases on the CD. The passenger index database was called *Emihamn* and covered ca. 1869-1930. I will concentrate on this source because it has become the primary source for emigration searches. Also included in *CD-Emigranten* were the databases *Emibas* (emigrants from parishes in the city of Göteborg 1700s-1930) and *Emisjö* (sailors who jumped ship outside Europe 1812-1930).

There were a few problems with the original *Emigranten* that we put up with for five years, including many misspellings and omissions. For example, it took me some years to put it all together, but the *Emihamn* database skips emigrants from the port of Malmö for the year 1887. Unfortunately, I did not notice the pattern until it was too late to tell anyone. Similarly, many of the "dependent travelers," i.e., those traveling under a "head of household," were omitted for 1879 from the port of Göteborg. There may be other mass omissions that I have not yet noticed.

At times we would find men in *Emihamn* traveling alone from Swedish ports whom we were certain should have been accompanied by their wives and children. We knew they had families with them when they left their parishes. We would go to the microfilmed port indexes, from which *Emihamn* was made, and find that their families did indeed leave the port with them.

None of the *Emigranten* databases would print the Swedish characters on some American inkjet printers and it did not print at all on others (networked). In addition, it defaulted to A4 Swedish-size paper, so it would nearly always print a

* This article was first presented as a lecture by Jill Seaholm on ?? October 2001 at the *Swedish American Genealogist* Genealogy Workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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second page with only the last line that should have been at the bottom of the previous page.

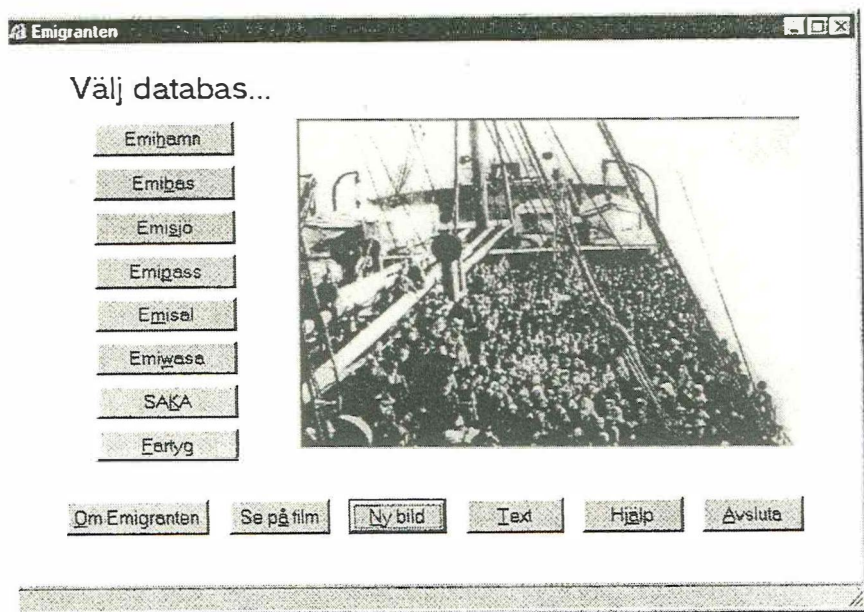


Fig. 1. Home page "Välj databas..." of the Swedish version of *Emigranten*. Note buttons for the various databases arranged vertically on the left and buttons for various actions arranged horizontally across the bottom of the page

The people at Göteborgs-Emigranten promised an update of the CD for quite some time and some glitches caused it to take a year or two longer than anticipated, but the Swedish version was ready at the end of 2000. It is currently available from Göteborgs-Emigranten and The Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies. They anticipate that the English version will be ready as early as March 2002. Check their website for updates: <<http://www.goteborgs-emigranten.com/>>.

The new version (Version 2) consists of two CDs and now has some minor printing problems ironed out. All of our printers will now print from it and it always includes the Swedish characters. The mass omissions are still omissions. They have corrected "obvious" misspellings and errors where they had entered things into incorrect fields. One feature we miss is the ability to copy text from the search results and paste it into a word processing document or an e-mail message. We have not yet found a way to do that.

The *Emihamn* database in Version 2 has been increased to include years up to 1950, when records were available for the included ports. Records from a few additional ports (Helsingborg, 1929-1950; Copenhagen, 1868-1898; and Hamburg, 1850-1891) have also been added to *Emihamn*. There is a new database of passport journals (called *Emipass*, 1783-1860) that was not previously in database form. It is very incomplete, as were the originals from which *Emipass* was made. Other new databases are *Emisal*, which includes passengers on the Swedish-America Line between 1915-1950, and *Emiwasa*, an index of members (43,000 of them) of the Vasa Order of America. There are also pictures of ten Wilson Line ships (*Fartyg*) that can be printed or saved to a file, as well as some interesting photos to choose from to look at while you're searching the various databases, with text accompanying each photo.

There are even two short films that you can watch if you have the computer capacity to do so. One is a black and white silent film from 1910, with an anti-emigration theme, depicting a couple in Sweden who went to America, did not prosper there, and returned to Sweden where they were happy again. The other film is a fourteen-minute color commercial for the Swedish-America Line, featuring the *Kungsholm*.

The passenger index database *Emihamn* is the first one to use to look for emigrants from Sweden between 1869 and the 1950s. It covers the ports of Göteborg, Malmö, Stockholm, Norrköping, Kalmar, Helsingborg, Copenhagen, and Hamburg. Database searches have gotten a bit easier. You can enter Hansson (with one 's') and get results for both Hansson and Hansson (but not Hansdotter). Since it only sees single and double sses, it is wise to enter "Hans" alone. It will then display anything starting with Hans__. In the same way, if you ask for Karlson with a 'K,' it will give you Carlsson, Carlson, Karlsson, and Karlson, but it does not give you Ws and Vs together in names starting with those letters.

When the name that you are looking for is very common, you will obviously have many more hits and possibilities from which to choose, so it is important to start out with a decent amount of information. In a search for a Pehr Ludvig Andersson living in Rock Island, Illinois, born 1859 in Västergötland, and emigrating in 1879, I found one that I thought could be the right man (see figure 2). This P. L. Andersson left the port of Göteborg on 9 May 1879 at the age of 20, with Chicago as his destination. The name is common enough that I require a little more proof. According to the age given, this man could have been born in 1858 or 1859 and I need to be sure that he was born in 1859.

I searched for others with the same contract number and found none, which meant that he was traveling alone. I went to the microfilmed records to be sure that his family had not been omitted from *Emihamn* and found that there was indeed no family with him, as my Pehr Ludvig should not have had. I then searched *Emihamn* for people with consecutive contract numbers to see if anyone who bought tickets immediately before or after him could have been related (see figure 3). There was a J. A. Höglund just below him traveling from the same parish to Chicago. My guess—probably a friend!

EMIHAMN / EMIGRANTEN / 2/1/2002

Förnamn: P L

Efternamn: ANDERSSON

Ålder: 20 Kön: M

Församling: LYRESTA Län: R

Utresehamn: GÖTEBORG

Utvandrdag: 1879 05 09

Destination: CHICAGO

Medåkande: NEJ

Källkod: 13:201:5495

Fig. 2. Individual printout, in this instance for PL Anderson, from *Emigranten's* passenger index database *Emihamn*. The fields represented are *Förnamn* (first or given name); *Efternamn* (surname); *Ålder* (age); *Kön* (sex/gender); *Församling* (parish); *Län* (county); *Utresehamn* (port of emigration); *Utvandrdag* (date of emigration); Destination; *Medåkande* (traveling with); and *Källkod* (contract number).

EMIHAMN / EMIGRANTEN / 2/1/2002

Källkod: 13:201:

Antal funna: 21

Efternamn	Förnamn	Ålder	Församling	Län	Utvdrår	Destination
BÅTELSON	LARS	28	HAFDHEN	I	1879	ST PAUL
NORDQVIST	VICTOR L	21		A	1879	MELBOURNE
ANDERSSON	ANDERS	63	RÖK	E	1879	CHICAGO
JOHANSSON	LOVISE	20	TREHÖRNA	E	1879	ROCK ISLAND
ANDERSSON	G	40	FALKÖPING	R	1879	CHICAGO
JOHANSON	SWEN	24	HOFMANTORP	G	1879	LONG LAKE
STRÖM	GUSTAF	45	URÅSA	G	1879	LONG LAKE
CARLSSON	JOHAN	24	HOMANTORP	G	1879	LONG LAKE
MAGNUSSON	J M	23	Ö THORSÅS	G	1879	LONG LAKE
CARLSSON	D O	22	Ö TORSÅS	G	1879	LONG LAKE
CARLSSON	C J	25	OSCARSHAMN	H	1879	NEW YORK
NILSSON	C A	21	MISTERHULT	H	1879	CAMBRIDGE
PETTERSON	EMIL	21	OSCARSHAMN	H	1879	CHICAGO
ANDERSSON	AUGUST	19	OSCARSHAMN	H	1879	CHICAGO
JANSON	LUDVIG	31	SÄFSNÄS	W	1879	MOINGONA
JANSSON MAL	JOH	34	SÄFSNÄS	W	1879	WAHOO
MALM JANSO	JOH	34	SÄFSNÄS	W	1879	WAHOO
ANDERSSON	P L	20	LYRESTA	R	1879	CHICAGO
HÖGLUND	J A	21	LYRESTA	R	1879	CHICAGO
ANDERSSON	ALMA	16		A	1879	NEW YORK
SAMUELSSON	STINA	25	BERGA	G	1879	WORTHINGTON

Fig. 3. *Emihamn* printout showing a list of emigrants with consecutive contract numbers (starting with 13:201). Note PL Andersson and JA Höglund near the bottom of the list.

[illegible]

Fig. 4. First page of the annual extracts of parish registers (*Svenska Befolkningsstatistiken*) for Lyrestad Parish. The heading, in translation, reads as follows: A summary information of the population of Lyrestad Parish of the Norra Wadsbo rural deanery, Skaraborg County, for the year 1879.

The next page lists the names of the parish's immigrants and emigrants for the year (see figure 5). I went to the pages for Lyrestad Parish in Skaraborgs län for 1879 to see if my man was born in 1859, and he was, which makes it more likely that I have the right man.

Förteckning å de från församlingen till främmande land under året utflyttade (emigranter).
 Här utåns redogörelse för årets utvandring (ärova mindre betydelse). Här årova emigrationen årt rum, gärova häråva uttrycklig årtedning.

Nr.	Namn.	Årt.	Födelsår.	Det land, årt utflyttningen uppgärt årted årt.
1	Andersson, Anders	Skaraborg	1855	N. Amerika
2	Thors Alfred Andersson	Skaraborg	1859	Årt
3	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1861	Årt
4	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1859	Årt
5	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1859	Årt
6	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1874	Årt
7	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1875	Årt
8	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1877	Årt
9	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1878	Årt
10	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1851	Årt
11	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1866	Årt
12	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1857	Årt
13	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1855	Årt
14	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1859	Årt
15	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1858	Årt
16	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1857	Årt
17	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1859	Årt
18	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1846	Årt
19	Andersson, Andersson	Årt	1858	Årt

Fig. 5. Second page of the annual extracts of parish registers (Svenska Befolkningsstatistiken) for Lyrestad Parish in 1879. The heading, in translation, reads as follows: Register of those emigrating from the parish to foreign lands during the year. Note the names of Per Ludvig Andersson and Johan Alfred Högglund toward the bottom of the page.

Not all Swedes left from Swedish ports. Many times they weren't always the most convenient ports for them to get to. For example, people from western and northern Swedish counties were often much closer to Norwegian ports.

I have found a number of people who were from Västernorrlands län in Sweden leaving from the port of Trondheim, Norway. Fortunately, the National Archives of Norway has made their port record indexes searchable on the World

Wide Web at the following address: <<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/wc/webcens.exe?slag=meny&kategori=5&emne=1&spraak=>>. I have a link to it on the genealogy page of our Swenson Center web site. (For those of you that do not have access to the Internet, I apologize for swaying this so heavily toward technology. If you do not have Internet access, I recommend getting friendly with someone who does. Otherwise, in just about every case, the records exist on microfilm here at the Swenson Center or elsewhere, but the web indexes are many times faster to use and, in many cases, are in English.)

Their links to individual ports start with those closest to Sweden (Fredrikstad, then Oslo) and work their way around the coast to the south and on up the west coast

You may pick the field to search in and then ask it for words that are the same (*er lik*), contain some of the same text (*inneheld*), or start with the same letter or letters (*børjar på*). After that, you may do additional searches within those search results (I am very fond of this feature). In order to print the results in the best way, you will need to maneuver your print settings to use 8 1/2" x 14" paper and to print them "landscape" instead of "portrait."

An interesting web site—<http://www.norwayheritage.com/ships/index.asp>—that talks about emigrant ships from Norway is put together by some people named Solem, Swiggum, and Austheim. I include this information here not just because some Swedes left from Norwegian ports, but because many of the ships leaving the Norwegian ports had originated in Sweden.

One statistic that the nice people at the Danish Emigrant Archives in Aalborg told me and that runs through my mind is that "56,000 Swedes left from Danish ports." Those emigrant Swedes would typically be from the far southern parts of Sweden. The Copenhagen port indexes are searchable in English on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.emiarch.dk/search.php3?l=en>>. Because people's names were sometimes entered using Danish spellings, your Carl Petersson's name could be spelled Pedersen. To get around such spelling differences, you can use the percent symbol (%) as a wildcard. For example, entering Pe%ers%n will result in almost every possible Danish and Swedish spelling of Peterson.

There is also a Copenhagen Police Records CD-ROM that can be purchased for about \$30 from the people at the same web site, but I find myself going back to the web version. I have found many Swedes in the database at this web site. It does not say where the Swede was from within Sweden, but it is still useful.

There are two different lists that the Copenhagen departure database is searching: the Direkte, those going by ship directly to their destinations, and the Indirekte, those who changed ships in Hamburg or England. If you find a person going the Direct route from Copenhagen, the database usually provides the name of the ship. If they changed ships somewhere, it does not.

To explain a bit about when and why passengers would change ships somewhere, I found an article on the Norwegian shipping index web site called *Feeder Service Norway to England* by Børge Solem, and it seems to apply well to the Swedish and Danish departures, too. Solem states:

Before 1865, only a minority of the emigrants traveled via Britain. Most of the emigrants traveled on sailing ships going directly from Norwegian ports to New York or Quebec. In the years between 1865 and 1870 this gradually changed. The transatlantic steamship companies that operated out of British ports took a larger percentage of the Norwegian emigrants every year. The main reason for this was the much better conditions on these ships, and the fact that they were much faster. Many people had suffered and died during the transatlantic crossing on the sailing ships. The suffering and the risk of dying was much lower on the faster steamships. The passage fee on the steamships became lower each year, due to the competition between the different lines. There was a growing need for passenger transportation between Norway and Britain, as the number of emigrants traveling via Britain increased...¹

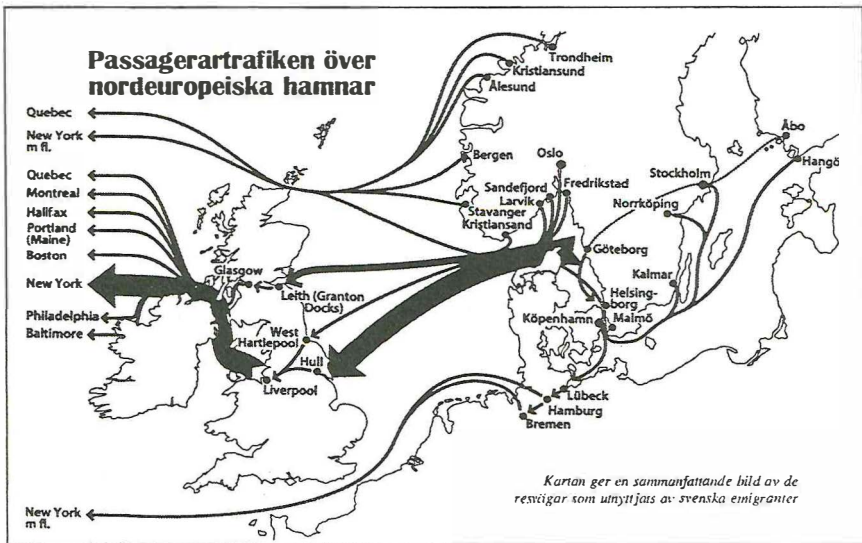


Fig. 6. Map illustrating the passenger traffic of northern European ports. Reprinted from *Emigrantfjörsk! Steg för steg* by Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson (LTs Förlag: Stockholm, 1996). Used by permission.

An index to the passenger arrival records from Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924 is now available at <ellislandrecords.org>. Although this site is a real treasure, it is not terribly easy to use when looking for Swedish patronymic surnames. A man in San Francisco has developed a search engine for the Ellis Island web site—<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html>—that allows

¹ From <<http://www.norwayheritage.com/ships/w-index.htm>>.

you to enter several search criteria from the start, rather than just a name. When you do find someone, it usually says where he or she was from in Sweden, at least approximately. It is not only fun to play around with and get to know but it also contains a wealth of information. You still need to register to use the Ellis Island records site, but it is not too much trouble.

The other records for passenger arrivals to the U.S. are not indexed from 1847-1896, but they exist in most cases. They are available at the New York Public Library, at the National Archives branches around the U.S., and through most LDS Family History libraries, to name a few. At this web site <<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/immigration/immigrat.html>> is a list of U.S. ports where you may click on a port to find sources for its passenger arrival records. To locate someone in arrival records, we recommend starting in New York records and looking through ships arriving ten days to four weeks after the Swedish departure date. If you know that an emigrant's voyage from Sweden ended up in Hull, England, then it might be fitting to search U.S. arrivals coming in from Liverpool, since the emigrants arriving in Hull usually traveled by train to Liverpool for the trans-Atlantic crossing. For Canadian arrivals, contact the National Archives of Canada at <http://www.archives.ca/08/08_e.html>.

Do not forget other U.S. ports and Canadian ports of arrival for your Swedish immigrants. We have found some Swedes who were headed to northern Minnesota or the Dakota Territories, who bought tickets only as far as Quebec or other Canadian cities. They would then make their way across Canada to get to northern U.S. destinations, not to mention Canadian destinations. I have not found all Canadian records on the web, but <Ancestry.com> had one site to search that was only open to their subscribers. The immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild had some Canadian arrivals transcribed. The Canadian National Archives should have them on microfilm, and they should even have them here in this library. There are bound to be others that I have not yet come in contact with.

Emigration and Immigration Record Sources: A Summary

- **CD-Emigranten** (Swedish and English language versions)

Göteborgs-Emigranten
Box 53066
SE-400 14 Göteborg
SWEDEN

Web site: <http://www.goteborgs-emigranten.com/>

- **Norwegian Passenger Index Databases**

National Archives of Norway
Folke Bernadottes vei 21
Postboks 4013 Ullevål stadion
N-0806 Oslo

NORWAY

Web site: <http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/wc/webcens.exe?slag=meny&kategori=5&emne=1&spraak=>

- **Norwegian Shipping Index**

Web site: <http://www.museumsnett.no/mka/ssa/index.htm>

- **Danish Passenger Index Database**

The Danish Emigration Archives
Arkivstræde 1
PO Box 1731
DK-9100 Aalborg
DENMARK

Web site: <http://www.emiarch.dk/search.php3?l=en>

- **Hamburg Passenger Index Database**

Hamburg State Archives
Kattunbleiche 19
22041 Hamburg
GERMANY

Web site: <http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>

- **Arrival records at U.S. National Archives**

National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20408
USA

Web site: <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/immigration/immigrat.html>

- **National Archives of Canada**

395 Wellington St
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3
CANADA

Web site: http://www.archives.ca/08/08_e.html

- **Family History Center**

35 N West Temple St
Salt Lake City UT 84150-3400
USA

Web site: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

Genealogical Queries

Genealogical queries from subscribers to *Swedish American Genealogist* will be listed here free of charge on a "space available" basis. The editor reserves the right to edit these queries to conform to a general format. The inquirer is responsible for the contents of the query.

Swens(s)on, Olofsson, Lindgren

I am seeking descendants of four siblings of my great-grandfather, Jonas Victor Swens(s)on, who was b. in Horn (Östg.) in 1835, emigr. in 1870, and d. in Kansas in 1933. His parents were Sven Jönsson (1805-1887) and Greta Pehrson (1811-1904) of Svinhult (Östg.).

The siblings were Sven Petter Swensson (b. 1833; emigr. 1857), Hans Alfred Swensson (b. 1839; emigr. 1870), Johan August Swensson (b. 1846; emigr. 1868), and Greta Lovisa Swensdotter (b. 1840), who emigr. in 1868 with her husband, Hans Olofsson (b. 1835). Descendants of another sister, who married Karl Magnus Lindgren, are known to be in Iowa.

Because Jonas Victor went to Kansas, I have assumed the siblings also went there; but I have found no census traces under any name variant. One child of Hans Olofsson, Huldah Olof(s)son, was living with Jonas Victor Swenson in 1922 in Cleburne, Kansas. The Olofsson family supposedly went to Nebraska.

Any help will be appreciated.

Patricia Scherf Smith
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Brooklyn, NY 11217
E-mail: <patriciassmith1@cs.com>

1235

Sonesson, Papp, Svensson

Åke Sonesson, b. at Ullstorp, Önnestad, Krist., 18 Oct. 1816, was married on 6 Feb. 1842 to Elna Pehrson, b. Färlöv Parish, 1 June 1824. Two of their great-grandsons are trying to locate descendents of three of their eight children.

Anders, b. at No. 5 Färlöv, Färlöv Parish, on 29 Dec. 1847, emigrated in July of 1867. His last known location in the U.S. was Stephen, Minnesota.

Elna, b. 28 Feb. 1854, married Karl August Papp, who was b. in Kviinge Parish, 15 Nov. 1854. They had the following five children (all b. in Färlöv): Ellen Kristina, b. 4 Dec. 1883; Karl Wilhem, b. 5 June 1885; Gustav Sigfried, b. 17 Feb. 1888; Hilma Agnes, b. 6 May 1890; and Ruth Friedenberg, b. 10 Aug. 1893. The family's last known location was in Färlöv in 1893.

Bengta, b. at #5 Färlöv, Färlöv Parish, on 9 July 1856, was married in Färlöv on 27 Dec. 1885 to Sven Svenson, b. in Trolle-Ljungby Parish, 14 Jan.

1862. The family lived at Västra Ljungby #9, Trolle-Ljungby Parish, in the 1890s and, allegedly, immigrated to either North or South Dakota.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Fred Ackerson
9305 Boothe Street
Alexandria, VA 22309-3007
E-mail: <ackerson@erols.com>

1236

Anderson, Olsen [Olsson]

I am interested in the ancestry of Charles Anderson, b. 1876/77, and his wife, Hilda E. Olsen [Olsson], b. 1877, the dau. of John Olsen [Olsson] and Caroline Munsson.

Hilda arrived in New York on 10 Oct. 1902 on board the SS *Norge* from Copenhagen, accompanied by her son (my uncle) Hilding Constantine Anderson, b. 26 Jan. 1901. She was met by her husband "Carl," who was living in Brooklyn. Records list all of the above as Swedish born.

On 30 Nov. 1906 a son, John Emil Anderson, was born in the Bronx. Hilda died in Manhattan on 18 April 1910. The sons were put in foster homes (they kept in touch) and the father was never heard from again.

Any information on their ancestry would be appreciated.

Marjory E. Llewellyn
1625 Deephole Drive
Mattituck, NY 11952

1237

Kallenberg, Malmquist (Nelson), Nilsson

My great-grandmother, Assarina Nilsson, b. at Kvidinge (Skån.) 10 Aug. 1850 had three sons: Frans Edvard Kallenberg, b. at Björnekulla (Skån.) 18 March 1871; my grandfather, Oscar Wilhelm Malmquist, b. at Björnekulla 27 July 1872; and Carl Petter Nilsson, b. Copenhagen, Denmark, 20 Apr. 1880. Assarina returned to Sweden from Denmark in 1880 and died in the fall of 1880, leaving the three boys as orphans. They spent most of their youth in the "poor house" at Björnekulla.

My grandfather immigrated to the U.S. between 1889 and 1895, changed his name to Oscar W. Nelson, and d. in Seattle, WA, in 1942. But I would like to hear from anyone who has information on either of my grandfather's half-brothers—Frans Edvard Kallenberg or Carl Petter Nilsson.

I have some information on Frans Edvard Kallenberg up to about 1903. He left Björnekulla in 1888 and went to Stockholm to join the military (Svea Livgarde). After about ten years, he is a sergeant first class but leaves the barracks for a civilian address in Stockholm/Hedvig Eleonora Parish. A researcher found him there in 1903, but not 1904.

As for Carl Petter Nilsson, I found him leaving Björnekulla for Uppåkra (Skån.) in 1898, moving from Uppåkra to Bjuv (Skån.) to work as a coal miner until 1902, and then returning to Björnekulla to work as a railway laborer until 1905, at which time it is written in the Björnekulla records that he moved to Helsingborg (Skån.). Unfortunately, I have been unable to find him in Helsingborg.

It would be a thrill to get some news about these relatives after nearly a century. The only information my grandfather left about his family was that he said he had a "brother who died at sea." In fact, it appears that he had two brothers and we don't know which one, if any, died at sea.

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Arlington, WA 98223
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1238

Bohman, Jonsson

"Footprints of Family" by Larry Oakes (*Swedish American Genealogist* XXII (March 2002): 1-20) has revived my hopes and fondest wish to find roots for my maternal grandmother, who was born Susie Bohman somewhere in the Swedish province of Småland on 8 January 1868. She died in St. Paul, Minnesota, on 28 December 1917, a few days before her fiftieth birthday.

Although I have bits and pieces of data (e.g., record of marriage, 1900 U.S. Census, death certificate), all documents record only "Sweden" as her place of origin. My mother told me about Småland.

The accompanying group photograph is of my great-grandparents with their two children, Susie Bohman and her older brother, Carl Bohman. Carl Bohman is said to have emigrated ahead of his sister, whose census record dates her emigration at 1889. I can place Susie Bohman in Rutledge, Minnesota, in 1895, when she married Martin Gunnard Martinson, who had lost his first wife and four young daughters in the 1894 Hinckley forest fire.

I am hoping the photographs might somehow ring a bell among your readers, especially those in Sweden. I am almost certain that Susie would have sent the portrait of herself back home to Sweden. Perhaps relatives may still have these old pictures or other pictures with my relatives in them. Unfortunately, I do not know the given names of either great-grandparent—only the family names of Bohman and, possibly, Jonsson.

The only other bit of information I have (from my mother, Hilda Inglo Martinson Balster, born in Rutledge, Minnesota, 16 January 1898) is that she thought her grandmother's name was Jonsson. In the 1930s, mother received a small inheritance from her grandmother but, unfortunately, mother discarded any letter or envelope that may have carried the inheritance. Hard to believe, isn't it?

I have been unable to find any information about Carl Bohman. My mother said he died fairly young, although he must have been living when Susie emigrated in 1889, as it seems he would have been her connection in Minnesota.

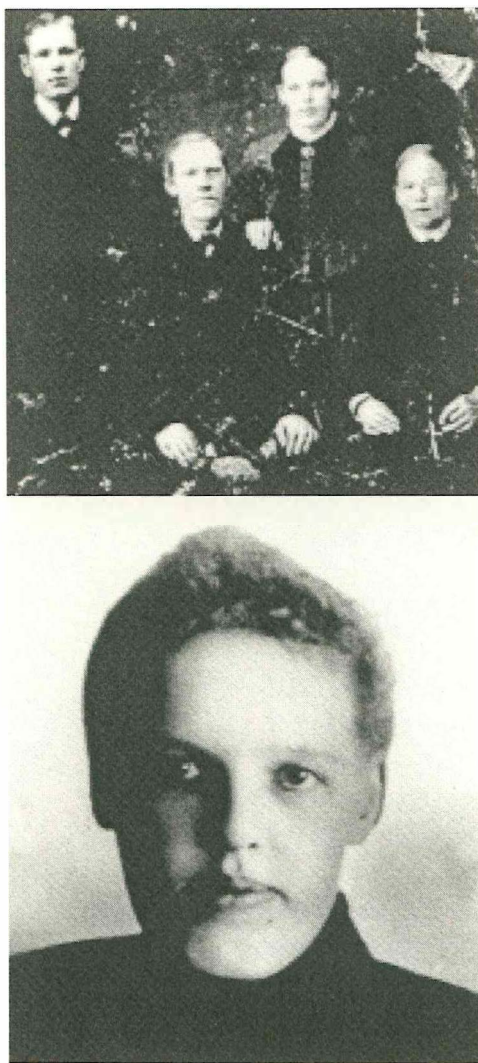


Fig. 1. The Bohman family (top) somewhere in Småland in the 1880s (L-R): Carl, father, Suzie, and mother. Susie Bohman (bottom), Rembrandt Studio, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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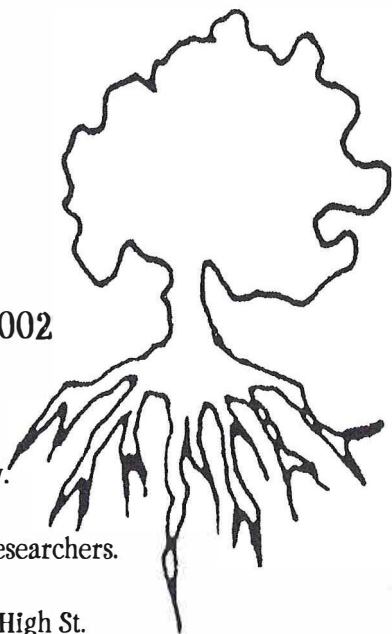


Table 1. Abbreviations for Swedish provinces (*landskap*) used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (as of March 2000) and Sveriges Släktforskarförbund (the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies, Stockholm).

<i>Landskap</i> (Province)	<i>SAG & SS</i> <i>Abbr.</i>	<i>Landskap</i> (Province)	<i>SAG & SS</i> <i>Abbr.</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Närke	Närk.
Bohuslän	Bohu.	Skåne	Skån.
Dalarna	Dala.	Småland	Smål.
Dalsland	Dals.	Södermanland	Södm.
Gotland	Gotl.	Uppland	Uppl.
Gästrikland	Gäst.	Värmland	Värm.
Halland	Hall.	Västerbotten	Väbo.
Hälsingland	Häls.	Västergötland	Vägö.
Härjedalen	Härj.	Västmanland	Väsm.
Jämtland	Jämt.	Ångermanland	Ånge.
Lappland	Lapp.	Öland	Öland
Medelpad	Mede.	Östergötland	Östg.

Table 2. Abbreviations and codes for Swedish counties (*län*) formerly used by *Swedish American Genealogist* (1981-1999) and currently used by Statistiska centralbyrån (SCB) (the Central Bureau of Statistics, Stockholm).

<i>Län</i> (County)	<i>SAG</i> <i>Abbr.</i>	<i>SCB</i> <i>Abbr.</i>	<i>SCB</i> <i>Code</i>	<i>Län</i> (County)	<i>SAG</i> <i>Abbr.</i>	<i>SCB</i> <i>Abbr.</i>	<i>SCB</i> <i>Code</i>
Blekinge	Blek.	Blek.	K	Stockholm	Stock.	Sthm.	AB
Dalarna ^a		Dlrm.	W	Södermanland	Söd.	Södm.	D
Gotland	Gotl.	Gotl.	I	Uppsala	Upps.	Upps.	C
Gävleborg	Gävl.	Gävl.	X	Värmland	Värm.	Vrml.	S
Halland	Hall.	Hall.	N	Västerbotten	Vbn.	Vbtn.	AC
Jämtland	Jämt.	Jmtl.	Z	Västernorrland	Vn.	Vnrl.	Y
Jönköping	Jön.	Jkpg.	F	Västmanland	Väst.	Vstm.	U
Kalmar	Kalm.	Kalm.	H	Västra Götaland ^c		Vgöt.	O
Kronoberg	Kron.	Kron.	G	Örebro	Öre.	Öreb.	T
Norrbottn	Norr.	Nbtn.	BD	Östergötland	Ög.	Östg.	E
Skåne ^b		Skån.	M				

^a formerly Kopparberg (Kopp.; W) *län*.

^b includes the former counties (*län*) of Malmöhus (Malm.; M) and Kristianstad (Krist.; L).

^c includes the former counties (*län*) of Göteborg and Bohus (Göt.; O), Skaraborg (Skar.; R), and Älvsborg (Älvs.; P).

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